



No. 65,765

THURSDAY DECEMBER 19 1996

Mansell's
rejection
of Jordan
flags end
of the roadBEST FOR
BOOKSGenesis, Christianity
and Christmas.
PAGES 32,33

VANISHING BREED

What
became of
sport's great
all-rounders?
PAGE 38NAUGHTY
BUT NICEHow Roald Dahl's
Matilda went
to Hollywood
PAGE 29BEST FOR
JOBSJOBS
SECTION 2

WANTED

- Manager 65K
- Man. Director 60K
- Planner 55K
- Consultant 50K

APPOINTMENTS, 8 PAGES
SECTION 2

Prince Philip snipes at Bill to ban handguns after Dunblane



Prince Philip: Bill unfair

By JILL SHERMAN, ANDREW PIERCE
AND BILL FROST

THE Duke of Edinburgh yesterday suggested that members of shooting clubs were no more dangerous than members of golf or squash clubs.

Prince Philip took the unusual step of commenting on government policy by implying that the new legislation to ban certain handguns would be ineffective because it would not prevent weapons getting into the hands of criminals.

In an interview with BBC Radio Five Live's *Inside Edge*, he said: "I sympathise desperately with the

people who are bereaved at Dunblane, but I'm not altogether convinced that it's the best system to somehow shift the blame on to a very large and peaceable part of the community."

He added: "I mean ... if a cricketer, for instance, suddenly decided to go into a school and batter a lot of people to death with a cricket bat which he could do very easily, I mean are you going to ban cricket bats? There's no evidence that people who use weapons for sport are any more dangerous than people who use golf clubs or tennis rackets or cricket bats." He called

for MPs and campaigners to pause and think before the legislation became law.

His comments were warmly welcomed by the shooting lobby but deplored by anti-gun campaigners, who said they were "sickened" by his views on gun sports.

Ann Pearson, one of the Dunblane *Snowdrop* petition organisers, said: "To think of the Queen coming up here and laying a wreath at our school and then hearing her husband say something like this sickens me — it is the Royal Family giving with one hand and taking away from the other."

The Firearms (Amendment) Bill is going through the House of Lords, where it has been opposed by more than 40 peers. Although it achieved its Second Reading this week, peers are threatening to rebel during the committee stage of the Bill, which bars all handguns over 0.22 calibre.

The Earl of Shrewsbury, the Government's chief adviser on gun laws, has also criticised the proposed legislation, accusing politicians on all sides of "a disastrous knee-jerk reaction".

Prince Philip said in his pre-recorded interview, to be broadcast tonight, that it was important to

make a difference between what "the weapons can do and what the people can do". He added: "There are always going to be unstable people who are going to do monstrous things. We know that. But I don't think it helps by taking it out on the rest of the population."

He believed transferring the blame for the killing of 16 children and their teacher last March on to "sport shooters" was "a little unreasonable". He understood those calling for a total handgun ban but argued that the main problem was that the legislation would not work as it had to be enforceable. Existing

regulations on owning guns should be tightened instead, he said.

The shooting lobby was delighted by the Prince's intervention. Michael Yardley, for the Sportsman's Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, said: "Clearly there has been a scapegoating of the shooting community since the Dunblane tragedy, probably because Thomas Hamilton is dead and not available to face the music."

It is estimated that in the past 30 years the Prince has shot a tiger, two crocodiles, 60 wild boar, stags, rabbits, ducks and at least 30,000 pheasant.

MARTIN McBAFF

Embassy siege
rebels threaten
to kill hostages

By DAVID ADAMS, LATIN AMERICA CORRESPONDENT, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

GUERRILLAS who took nearly 500 diplomats, politicians, business leaders and other officials hostage at a glittering embassy reception in Lima threatened last night to start shooting their captives one by one.

The leftist rebels got in to the Japanese Ambassador's residence disguised as waiters carrying champagne and hors d'oeuvres on Tuesday night and promptly let off explosives and starting firing automatic weapons. One of the 23 rebels was wounded in a hour-long gunfight with police, and 170 women and elderly hostages were eventually released.

Yesterday, 21 hours after the siege began, the invaders demanded face-to-face talks with Peru's President Fujimori and said that unless they got their way, they would start shooting the hostages with the Foreign Minister Francisco Todesca the first victim.

As the Peruvian Cabinet held an emergency session to

discuss the crisis, smoke could be seen above the 15ft walls around the residence, which was surrounded by police and troops. At the same time, marksmen patrolled the roofs of neighbouring buildings.

The guerrillas, who claim to be from the far-left Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, are demanding the release of a number of jailed comrades, a review of prison

conditions and curbs on the Japanese influence on the Government's economic policy. President Fujimori is of Japanese origin.

What we are asking is the liberation of all our comrades, who are being mistreated and tortured in the dungeons of the various prisons, a spokesman said. "We are clear: the liberation of all our prisoners, or we will kill all the hostages."

Besides Senor Todesca, the hostages include Peru's Agriculture Minister, the Speaker, six members of Parliament and the president of the Supreme Court, as well as some 18 foreign ambassadors and scores of other diplomats — including Britain's Roger Church. The heads of more than a dozen Japanese firms are among the business leaders being held, along with military officers, teachers and representatives of about 20 Japanese associations who had gone to the residence to

celebrate Emperor Akihito's birthday. The President's wife and mother and sister were among those released.

Yesterday morning a representative from the International Red Cross entered the compound to act as mediator and four more hostages were freed. The Japanese Ambassador, Morihisa Aoki, said that apart from one rebel, no one

had been injured and that everyone was safe.

Sally Bowen, a British freelance journalist who was among the first group of hostages to be freed, last night described how she had been eating and drinking in a marquee on the lawn with other women "dressed up to the nines" when the guerrillas struck. She said she heard a

huge explosion, followed 90 seconds later by automatic gunfire. That indicated that something really serious was happening. It was fairly intense gunfire. There was machinegun fire then heavier fire, which sounded like

loudhailers, told the guests to lie face down on the floor. They threatened that if we lifted our heads we would be shot," Ms Bowen said.

The guests, who were "fairly quiet" and in a state of "controlled panic", remained on the floor for about 40 minutes until the gunfire died down and then they were divided up and hustled into

the rooms of the residence. Ms Bowen, who was released about four hours after the siege began, said she saw eight or nine guerrillas, including two women, and assumed that at least as many more were elsewhere in the embassy compound.

Testing resolve, page 13
Matthew Parris, page 16Muslim protest
at carol concert

Parents have called for a public apology after an Asian teacher interrupted a school carol concert and berated Muslim pupils for taking part.

The 120-strong choir, which includes 40 Muslims, had just launched into *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* when the maths teacher allegedly began shouting: "Who is your God?"

Page 3

Paedophile lists for police

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

PAEDOPHILES and other sex offenders will have to register their addresses with the police under sweeping plans announced yesterday.

Ministers are also considering an American system in which communities are informed when paedophiles move into the district. David Maclean, a Home Office Minister, confirmed that discussions over such a scheme are being held with senior police officers.

But he warned of the danger of vigilante action in which enraged members of the public took action against convicted sex offenders. "There is the danger of people getting it wrong," he said. "But against

that we have to get the balance — would it actually help protect the public?" added Mr Maclean, who was speaking on Radio 4's *Today* programme only hours before the Government unveiled a Bill to set up a nationwide register of sex offenders. The Bill will force offenders to give their addresses to police, who will put them on the police national computer, every time they move.

The Bill also includes a measure to allow British sex tourists, who commit offences abroad particularly in Sri Lanka, Thailand, and the Philippines, to be prosecuted in this country.

But the Government is to

consult further on a plan to make it a criminal offence for a convicted sex offender to seek employment in jobs giving them access to children.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said that the Sex Offenders Bill published yesterday would help protect the public. "This Bill would provide the police with the information they need to apprehend sex offenders, and help them to protect the public from those who would seek to do harm to children."

It is the latest in a series of Government measures targeting sex offenders including mandatory life sentences for second time serious sex

offenders.

Confirmed on page 2, col 2

Total of jobless is
lowest in six years

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

FOR the first time in almost six years, the number of people out of work has dropped below two million, boosting the Government's hopes of further growth in the economy before a general election must be held.

A fall of 95,800 last month took the seasonally adjusted total to 1,929,400. The fall, the biggest since current records began, was hailed by John Major as "a great Christmas present for Britain". The Prime Minister claimed that the economy was now "the lion that roars in Europe".

Michael Heseltine, the Dep-

uty Prime Minister, asked if an early election was now more likely, said: "The figures are getting better and better. Why not wait?" Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said: "My confident expectation is that the economy is going to continue to strengthen. The spring is going to be a very attractive one."

Westminster took these remarks as a clear indication that the Government will delay the election for as long as possible.

Largest fall, page 21
Leading article, page 17

Buying The Times overseas
Australia \$140; Belgium \$1.25;
Canada \$3.25; Denmark Dkr 18.00;
Finland Mark 17.00; France F 14.00;
Germany DM 5.50; Hong Kong \$1.50;
Italy L 4,500; Luxembourg B 4.50;
Netherlands D 1.50; New Zealand \$1.50;
Norway Kr 20.00; Portugal \$1.50;
Spain Pts 3.50; Sweden Kr 22.50; Switzerland
Fr 18.50; Switzerland Fr 18.50; United
Kingdom 2.20; USA \$1.50.

The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

51
1770140 046343

How truant Blair took off on a charter flight of fancy

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE best kept secret of Tony Blair's school days was revealed last night when he confessed that he sneaked on to a plane destined for the Bahamas at the age of 14 to escape the horrors of public school.

Mr Blair said "the craziest thing" he had ever done happened after his parents put him on a train in Newcastle to return to Rettes College in Edinburgh.

"My parents saw me off on the train. I went down the carriage and got off the other end, went into the gents, changed into my casual clothes and went outside the station," the Labour leader said.

He then made his way to Newcastle Airport, evaded all security, and joined charter passengers on a flight to the Bahamas.

"I snuck on to the plane, and we were

literally about to take off when the stewardess came up to me and said: 'I don't think I actually saw your boarding pass,'" he told Des O'Connor on his *Tonight* programme on TV.

However, Mr Blair's dramatic disclosure astonished his friends and family, not least his father, who drove him back to the school on the day he played truant.

"The Bahamas? Who said that? Tony? Never. It's news to me," said Leo Blair, 73, last night.

"He only got as far as the airport. He never got on the plane. It was not possible. He never had a passport. But I'm not supposed to say anything. I have been told to shut up by Tony's office. But it's nothing like that at all."

Leo Blair was not the only person

baffled by the story. A spokeswoman for Newcastle Airport said: "In our 61-year history we have never had any flights to the Bahamas from here."

Mr Blair senior thought his son was confused. He said: "He was unhappy at Rettes. It was nothing to do with the discipline. He was slipped three times at prep school in Durham and never complained. He could not face going back after being at home. The first we knew he had slipped off the train was when the headmaster telephoned to say he was at the airport."

Alastair Campbell, an Edinburgh solicitor who was a classmate of Mr Blair's, was also bemused. "It's news to me. Nobody said a word at the time or ever since."

"We've been inundated with one-way tickets to the Bahamas"

150



Van Cleef & Arpels

22 place Vendôme PARIS

HARRODS, Knightsbridge, Fine Jewellery Room
LONDON Tel. (0171) 225 65 20

TV & RADIO
WEATHER
CROSSWORD

20
20 40

LETTERS
OBITUARIES

19
WILLIAM REES-MOGG 16

ARTS
CHESS & BRIDGE
COURT & SOCIAL

29-31
37
18

SPORT
BODY & MIND
LAW REPORT

35-38, 40
14
26

Acid killer gets life after boasting of the perfect murder

By MICHAEL HORNELL

A CONVICTED fraudster who claimed to have committed the perfect murder when he dissolved his wife's body in acid was jailed for life yesterday. Russell Causley had boasted that his achievement was "better than an Agatha Christie murder".

Veronica Packman, known as Carol, disappeared in 1985 at the age of 40 after her husband decided to move his young mistress into the family home in Bournemouth and to take her name. Winchester Crown Court was told that Causley, 53, said his wife had run off with another man and lied to friends about her whereabouts. He had had his lover, Patricia Causley, forge her signature to make it look as though she was still alive.

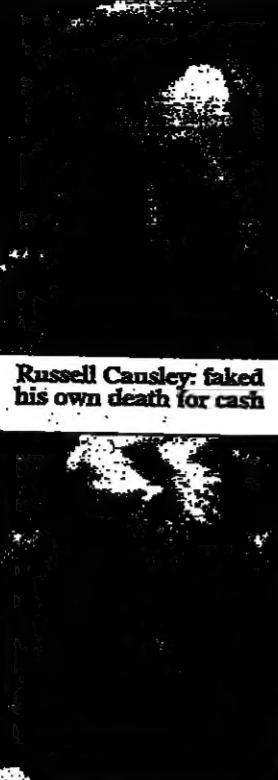
He was given away by conversations with other prisoners after he was jailed last year for an £800,000 insurance fraud in which he faked his own drowning at sea.

The jury found Causley guilty of murder after three hours' deliberation. Police said later that they would continue their investigations in an attempt to locate Mrs Packman's remains.

The couple's daughter, Samantha, 28, who is married with a son aged seven, gave evidence against Causley. She said: "His life is over now. I feel justice has finally been done but it's been an absolute nightmare reliving it after all these years. Words cannot describe how I feel about my father - hate is not enough. For years I had prayed Mum was still alive but there were just too many things that didn't add up."

She added: "Now the question I would like answered is what did he do with her body. Finding her has always been the priority. Now I want the chance to give her a decent burial and to pay my last respects after all these years."

It was while in Brixton prison that Causley confessed to murder to a fellow inmate and "asked wife" if it were possible to be convicted of murder in the absence of a body. He was transferred to



Russell Causley faked his own death for cash

Veronica Packman: her remains were not found

Ford open prison where he met Andrew Murphy, another inmate, and said: "She is a missing person and she's going to stay that way. I killed her before she was reported missing, and covered my tracks well."

He said his favourite day was June 21 when "I got rid of that bitch. I did it better than an Agatha Christie murder. I put her away peacefully with a shot of gas and put a plastic bag over her head. I used acid to get rid of the body. It will never be found."

Causley met Mrs Packman

in Reading and they married in September 1965. They moved to Dorset, where Samantha was born in 1968. They travelled the world on business contracts before moving back to Britain in 1982.

Causley then met Patricia Causley, then 25, and employed her after he opened an insurance business in Bournemouth in 1984. A few months

later she sold her flat and moved into the family home at his invitation.

Mrs Packman disappeared in June 1985 while her husband and teenage daughter were on a day-trip to London. Her wedding ring was found on a note, purportedly by her, in the kitchen. It said she could take no more. Upstairs, her favourite ballgown was discovered slashed to pieces.

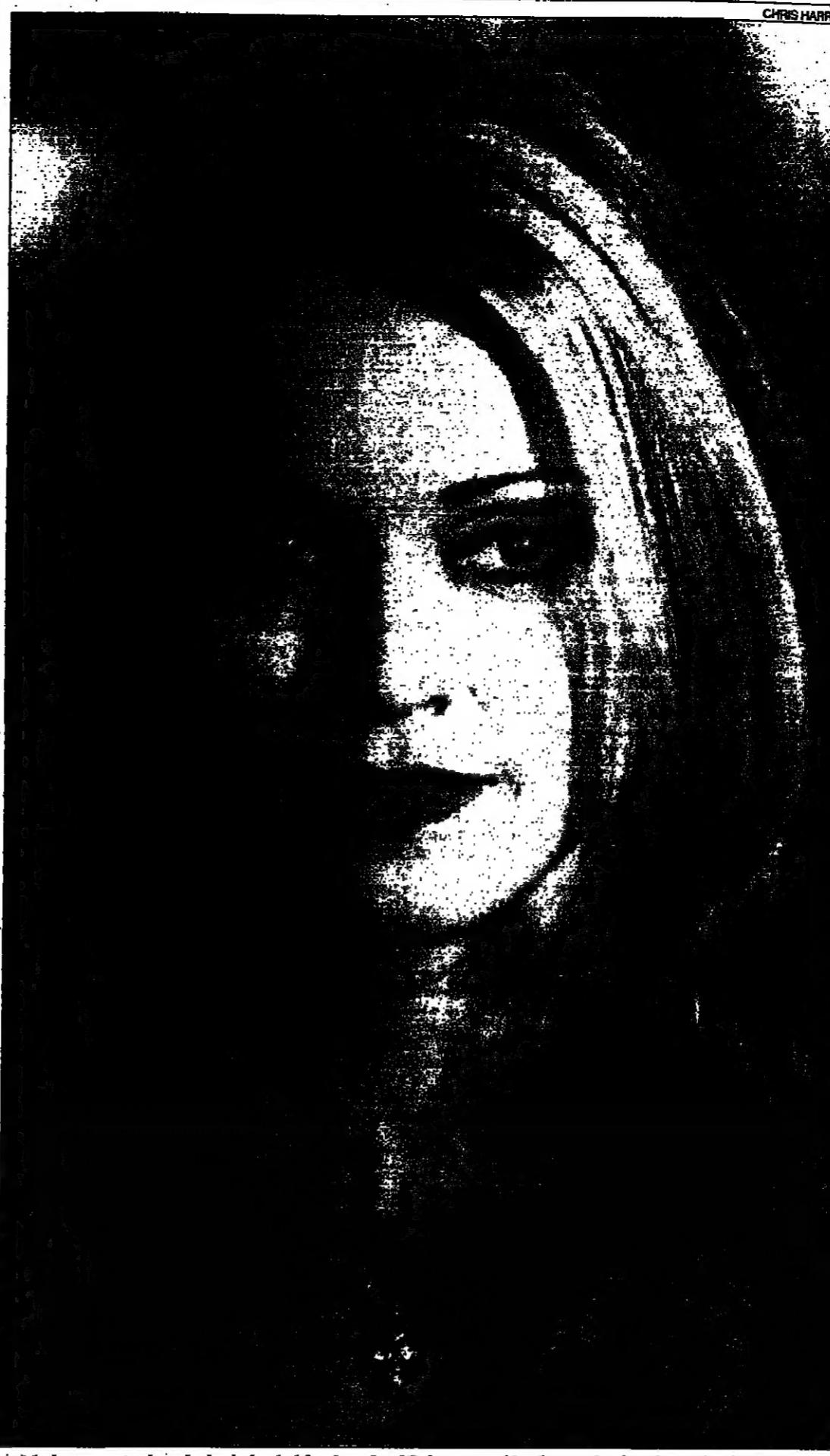
Few of her personal effects were missing, however, and she had left her Rolex watch and jewellery, together with her extensive wardrobe and all the family suitcases. Causley reported his wife missing to police and attempts were made to find her.

Detective Chief Inspector Tony Nott, who led the murder inquiry, said her bank account had not been touched, she had not filed for divorce or a financial share of the marriage from the husband who treated her so badly, and had made no attempt to contact her daughter.

When in 1993 a detective from Guernsey told Dorset police that he was investigating Causley's own "disappearance" in the insurance swindle, detectives began to examine the case further.

They found that the family home had been sold with Mrs Packman's forged signature; she had not registered with a doctor or received dental care; there were no tax and insurance records since 1985; the passport of the well-travelled career woman had not been renewed since its expiry in 1992; and Patricia Causley had worked in Canada using the missing woman's name. Causley told friends she had taken £2,000 and gone abroad with a rich German in a red Porsche.

Causley was jailed for two years for the insurance swindle. He served 12 months and was re-arrested on his release. Patricia Causley, 37, was given a 12-month, suspended sentence. She had claimed Causley had disappeared overboard from a yacht chartered to sail to Guernsey. Causley was caught out because he could not resist visiting her.



Madonna yesterday: she had pleaded for the role of Evita, created by the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber and directed in the film by Alan Parker, right

Cry for me if I don't win an Oscar ...

By DALVA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

MADONNA said yesterday that she expected to be nominated for an Oscar for her performance in *Evita*. She said that she had written an impassioned letter to the film's director, Alan Parker, setting out why she thought herself ideal for the role of Eva Peron, and told him it had taken 20 meetings with him before he became convinced.

Madonna said at the launch of the musical film in London that she identified with Peron "on many levels", drawing parallels between herself and the former dictator's wife who rose from poverty to become one of the most powerful women in the world. "She came from a small town, from nothing essentially, and moved to the big city and had the courage to make something incredible with her life ... people were either incredibly for her or against her."

The actress and singer, wearing a low-cut 1940s-style dress and platform sandals, said that, until the last moment, "I still wasn't sure I had the movie." Parker said: "I frustrated her, because I kept saying, 'Oh, I don't know ...'"

Madonna, who co-stars with the British actor Jonathan Pryce as Juan Peron, had pleaded in her letter to Parker that the film would be a "chance for me as a singer and actress to do things I'd never done before". She studied for three months with a vocal coach in New York "to learn how to sing all over again". Asked at the press conference whether she thought she would be selected for an Oscar and whether that was important to her, she replied: "Yes and yes."

Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, the composer, was asked about his reported rift with Sir Tim Rice, the lyricist, who did not attend the premiere in Los Angeles and is expected to be absent from the premiere in London tomorrow. Sir Andrew said: "I don't know where he is today. I haven't been that involved in the film. I just feel it's important to be here to show my endorsement of all the incredible hard work that has gone on, and I am sorry he's not."

Review, page 29



150 cars fail to stop for roadside rape victim

By ADAM FRESCO

A CIVIL servant was beaten to the ground beside a busy road at rush hour before being dragged into bushes and raped, police said yesterday.

Police believe that at least 150 motorists saw the 36-year-old woman being repeatedly punched as they stopped at a mini-roundabout, but they failed to help her. She has told police that she remembered looking up at people in their cars and seeing them look at her but doing nothing to help her.

The woman was walking to her home in Chislehurst, Kent, after getting off the 6.05pm train from Charing Cross. She was attacked at about 7pm. To stop her screaming, the attacker pushed a metal bar into her mouth.

When the attack was over the woman waited until the rapist had left and returned to the road and flagged down a car. Police want to trace the woman who finally stopped for the victim. She gave her name as Maureen and took the victim to Chislehurst police station.

The man is described as white, aged between 28 and 33, with short, curly ginger or light brown hair. He was about 5ft 7in, slightly built, with a long thin, clean-shaven face. He had thin lips and wore dark clothing. Police believe that he would have looked muddy and dishevelled after the attack.

Muslim teacher breaks up school carol concert

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A SCHOOL carol performance broke up in chaos as the choir sang *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* when a teacher started berating Muslim pupils for taking part.

Pupils said Ihsan Khan, a maths teacher at Washwood Heath School, Birmingham, stood up and shouted: "Who is your God?" at the choristers and the audience of pupils.

Some of those watching then said they had started clapping and shouting "Allah". About a third of the choir of 120 were Asian pupils.

The school said yesterday that it would investigate the incident, but many parents called for a public apology from the choir.

Ozy Malik, an 18-year-old pupil, said: "The concert was going fine and then the teacher just stood up and shouted over the kids singing. He said: 'Excuse me, there are Muslim boys and girls in this choir who are saying that Jesus is their God by taking part. This is totally wrong.'

Mr Malik said that Mr Khan then shouted at the 12 and 13-year-old pupils watching. "Everybody started clapping and shouting Allah. All of the white girls just walked out as well as some of the Asian girls — they looked really upset. I disagree with what he said. Islam teaches you to respect all religions and we also see Jesus as a prophet."

Mr Malik said that Mr Khan then shouted at the 12 and 13-year-old pupils watching. "Everybody started clapping and shouting Allah. All of the white girls just walked out as well as some of the Asian girls — they looked really upset. I disagree with what he said. Islam teaches you to respect all religions and we also see Jesus as a prophet."

Fresh anguish for jailed mother

By TIM JONES AND PAUL WILKINSON

A YOUNG mother of three will know tomorrow whether she must spend Christmas in jail for attacking her husband's lover with her stiletto heels.

Lawyers will make an application to the Appeal Court for bail pending an appeal by Debbie Smith against a nine-month sentence for assault and affray, imposed last Friday at Minshull Crown Court in Manchester.

Yesterday Smith, 29, from Stalybridge, who has been held in the hospital wing of Risley remand centre near Warrington since her sentence, faced fresh distress when she learnt that two of her children had been taken by their estranged father.

Relatives had delayed for 24 hours telling her that her former husband Jeffrey, 31, had removed their sons Jeff, 9, and Jonathan, 7, from school. Her boys and their sister Emma, 11, were being looked after by their grandmother.

Smith's lawyers had expected a community-based sentence, but on Friday Mrs Smith, who had no previous convictions, was jailed by Judge Peter Lakin. Smith was taken from the dock screaming: "My babies, my babies".

She had admitted assaulting her former best friend, Francine French, after discovering her affair with her husband.

Make someone happy this Christmas

Boots Natural Collection Berries Barrel Bag £10.00

A fashionable bag to keep once you've enjoyed the treats it holds.

Contains 6 fruity toiletries, a headband and facial brush.

Just one of hundreds of gift ideas at Boots.



School bullies graduate to the board

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

SCHOOL bullies could grow up to become chairmen of major companies because both require qualities necessary for tough management, a psychologist said yesterday.

The traditional picture of the bully as a stupid brute lacking social skills is a dangerous myth. In order to exert their power, bullies require insight into the way their victims' minds work and the capacity to manipulate social situations.

A study of 72 children aged seven to ten at three south London schools showed

that those identified as ring-leader bullies had a superior understanding of other people's thoughts but not their feelings. The children were given 11 stories and their capacity to read others' minds and emotions was assessed.

Jon Sutton, a researcher at Goldsmiths' College, London, said: "It is this gap between their social and emotional understanding that makes ring-leaders such cold and effective bullies."

The results, presented to the British Psychological Society's conference in London yesterday, suggest that bullies are not socially inept. Dr Sutton said: "In some areas they are superior. This kind

of skilled manipulator should do well. They could make good managers."

However, the ruthlessness necessary in successful management could also lead people into crime. Dr Sutton said that the bullies' inability to read other people's emotions was also seen in psychopaths, who are distinguished by their capacity for "cold cognition".

He said anti-bullying measures should include all those who hang around the ring leaders. Most children were against bullying, yet 85 per cent of incidents occur with other children present. Dr Sutton suggested the silent minority should be helped to break the cycle.

The Right Chemistry

http://www.boots.co.uk

Available from larger Boots stores. Subject to availability.



Fayed pledges cash support for new anti-abortion party

By RUSSELL JENKINS

MOHAMED AL FAYED has promised financial backing for a new anti-abortion party which hopes to field at least 50 candidates at the general election.

The Egyptian-born multi-millionaire believes that the Conservatives and Labour have been "mealy-mouthed" about abortion and that the subject should be at the centre of British political debate.

Mr Fayed, a father of four, believes strongly that children are a gift from God and that they should be nurtured and educated, his spokesman said yesterday.

The decision to finance the Pro-Life Alliance Party is disclosed in today's edition of *New Statesman*. The alliance will have candidates in the constituencies of "pro-choice" MPs, including Virginia Bottomley, Sir Nicholas Lyell, Marjorie Mowlam and Clare Short. It hopes to field sufficient candidates to qualify for a party political broadcast, in which it would show a late-term abortion.

The alliance, formed by members of the Quintavalle family of Chelsea, London, and the anti-abortion group Life, aims to make abortion as unavoidable an issue for politicians as it was in the recent US presidential elections.

Mr Fayed's spokesman told *New Statesman*: "He does not just talk about family values, like some Conservative MPs. He is doing something towards these ends and reintroducing a sense of morality and purpose. Mr Fayed has under-

taken to provide substantial sums of money to help the party with their election expenses because he believes that what they are doing is in the long-term interests of everyone in this country."

The spokesman was anxious to dismiss any suggestion that Mr Fayed hoped to emulate Sir James Goldsmith, who set up the Referendum Party to campaign for a referendum on Britain's continued adherence to the Maastricht treaty. "These are not overtly political questions. He sees it in terms of a moral crusade," the spokesman said.

New Statesman said that the Harrods chairman had decided to underwrite the deposits of alliance party candidates to the tune of £25,000, but Mr Fayed's aides refused to confirm the figure.

Mr Fayed has made donations, said to total £180,000 over three years, to *Christian Democrat*, a small-circulation

newspaper which is the mouthpiece for the Movement for Christian Democracy. The non-denominational, cross-party group was launched in 1991 by David Alton, the Liberal Democrat MP. *The Times* reported in May that the Liberal Democrats had rejected Mr Fayed's offer of a substantial donation to help them to fight the next general election.

Bruno Quintavalle, 25, founder of the pro-life party, said that a number of people had offered financial backing. He told *New Statesman*: "We don't yet have a bank account open but we have money pledged. I cannot comment on individual donors. We would like to be totally open and would prefer that donors are prepared to be openly associated with the pro-life movement. We have not sought money from abroad."

Last month Mr Fayed won the latest round of his legal battle to become a British citizen. Judges in the appeal court ruled by a 2-1 majority that he and his younger brother, Ali, were treated unfairly when their citizenship applications were refused without reasons being given by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

Last August Mr Fayed visited Zoe's Place, a baby hospice at Alderhey Hospital, Merseyside. "He was very impressed by the work that was being done," his spokesman said. "He has provided the finance to increase the scope of their work."

Fayed: believes that babies are gift from God



Doris Jourd, believed by her family to have been the world's first Girl Guide, raises a glass for her birthday

Pioneer of the Girl Guides turns 100

By ROBIN YOUNG

A WOMAN believed by her family and friends to have been the world's first Girl Guide is 100 today. Doris Best joined her local Boy Scout troop in Kent and became founder member of a distinct troop of Girl Scouts two years before the Girl Guides were officially launched.

As a young girl in the early years of the century she kept pestering her mother to let her join the Boy Scouts. Eventually Alice Best let her daughter tag along and she equipped herself with a brown skirt and hat to follow the boys along the street, carrying a broomstick.

In 1908, when she was 12, she was accepted as an affil-

iate member of the troop. Within a month 60 girls had joined her and in 1909 she formed the first Girl Scouts troop in Gillingham.

In 1910 Lady Baden-Powell officially launched the Girl Guides. Lord Baden-Powell presented Alice Best with the first Girl Scout captain's certificate, and from then her Gillingham troop adhered to the Girl Guides.

Her daughter, now Mrs Jourd, went on to give more than 60 years' service to the Guides, serving as captain of the 1st Whistable Guides, in Kent, for 30 years before retiring at 74, saying she did not want to stay on as "an old dodger". She now lives in a nursing home in Whistable, close to her three children and

six grandchildren, who have all been involved in the Guiding movement.

Her daughter Christine Stanley-Hughes, 63, said yesterday: "Guiding was one of the dearest things in her life. She was seen as rather a racy pioneer in her day."

The Guides' Association said: "It is difficult to be sure who the first Girl Guide was. We tend to give the credit to Lady Baden-Powell, but a lot of girls were joining the Boy Scouts in 1908 and 1909."

"Many girls were present at the great Crystal Palace rally held by the Scouts in 1909, the year before the Guides were established. Mrs Jourd was certainly one of the first Girl Guides, and she might well have been the very first."

Doris Jourd in the Boy Scouts in 1908, aged 12

honours

Callaghan
tells Blair
to retain
union link

Girls' secret life of crime

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

ADOLESCENT girls are committing far more crime than police records show, researchers have found. Shoplifting is as common among girls as boys in the early teens, and as many as one third of all offences are committed by women, according to surveys based on individuals' own reports.

However, statistics based on police records show that male involvement in crime exceeds that of females at every age and for all crime, by up to 33 times in the case of burglary committed by those aged over 20.

Ann Hagell of the Policy Studies Institute in London, who presented the findings to the British Psychological Society's conference in London yesterday, said that more girls than boys were being let off with a caution and the remainder were treated more leniently by the courts. Girls were more likely to get absolute or conditional discharges for a first offence than boys, and even persistent offenders were less likely to be sent to prison.

Girls were often treated more leniently than boys because offending by girls was still relatively rare, Dr Hagell said, and it was extremely rare for them to be involved in violence or serious crime.

Boys offended more than girls because of early family influences, parental control and the friends with whom they became involved. Boys tended to cope less well with family difficulties and were especially sensitive to their mother's stress. "If their mothers are having a bad time boys tend to act up more," Dr Hagell told the conference.

Coroner's tribute after 56 years

Wartime airman hailed above 'false heroes' of today

By A STAFF REPORTER

A CORONER paid tribute to a Battle of Britain fighter pilot yesterday and contrasted him with highly paid footballers and other "false heroes" of the 1990s.

An inquest was held 56 years after the death of Sergeant Denis Noble because his remains were unearthed in the wreckage of his Hurricane only last month. In August 1940 the 20-year-old pilot was machine-gunned in a dogfight with Messerschmitts and crashed his aircraft, near Hove, in West Sussex.

Yesterday Dr Donald Gooding hailed the airman as one of "The Few" described by Churchill and said: "These days we are regaled by talk of heroes and really I don't think people know what they are talking about.

"These 'heroes' get large sums of money for kicking soggy lumps of leather about. These are just one type of what today are called heroes. They are not heroes. Denis Noble was a hero."

At the inquest in Brighton, an elderly clergyman described how he watched the dogfight as a 13-year-old boy. "I was at home because it was the school holidays," the Rev Anthony Marlowe said. "I heard a dogfight going on and I went into the garden to watch it. There were many aircraft involved, possibly more than a hundred. The noise was enormous with the sound of engines and cannon fire."

"I saw one plane falling straight downwards to the earth. It fell like an arrow. After I had my lunch I cycled down to the crash site. I stood behind the barrier and watched what happened.

"There was a large crater which had filled with water because the plane had hit a water main. I assumed the body of the airman had been removed."

It was thought that the pilot's remains had been buried in his home town of Retford, Nottinghamshire, but his torso was found in the cockpit of the Hurricane when it was dug up by a team of aviation archaeologists led by the historian Keith Arnold.

David Melcher, a patholo-

gist who examined the airman's remains, said all that was recovered was a partial skeleton, an RAF button and a fragment of clothing. "Common sense suggests the whole of the body could not have been removed. At that time, if seven pounds by weight could be removed then a proper funeral could be held. This is what I believe happened with Sergeant Noble."

War records showed that Sergeant Noble had been identified at the time by a ring that had his initials inscribed on it. He was a member of 43 Squadron, based at Tangmere, near Chichester. Before his death he had made his first

attack near the family home in Kent, nominated her for one of eight Children of Courage awards sponsored by *Woman's Own* magazine.

The girl suffers panic attacks if approached by strangers, but tries to be cheerful and is a great comfort to her father, Shaun Russell, a lecturer.

"If she sees me getting downhearted she comes up to me and pushes the corners of my mouth up to make me smile," Dr Russell said.

"She has been like a rock to me.

She has been incredibly firm for a girl who has quite a little, timid character. Christmas will be a very difficult time, but we will try to keep



Harry Meers and the Buzz Lightyear toy, which cost him £75 more than in the shops

Rare toys give fathers a Buzz

EVERY parent will be familiar with the desperation that sets in when, after hunting high and low for their child's "must have" Christmas present, there is none to be found.

Not every parent, however, will be willing to pay four times its value or to arrange a transatlantic swap.

Harry Meers and Craig Jones were Mr Meers, a car worker from Newcastle upon Tyne, went to a sale and parted with £94.10 - £20 plus commission and VAT - for a

Buzz Lightyear toy that retails at £18.99. His daughter, Amber Elizabeth, 13, had wanted only the video of the film *Toy Story*, in which Buzz features, for Christmas. But Mr Meers, 33, decided "to make a determined effort to get her this toy as an extra".

Buzz and his sidekick Woody, who sold for £70, had been bought in March for £26.95 and £24.95 by a Durham businessman with a keen eye on Christmas ahead.

Mr Jones's quest cost him

considerably more than £400 on advertisements, telephone calls and postage for a Buzz Lightyear toy for his son, Chris, 6.

Eventually a swap was arranged with Janet Winter, of Milwaukee, who wanted a *Sesame Street* toy, called *Tickle-Me Elmo*, for her son Mike, 11. Mr Jones, 30, from Ely, Cardiff, said he could not wait for Christmas morning.

"We've told Chris that Father Christmas has run out of Buzz Lightyears."

Meers, 13, from Sheffield, who fell from a tree on to railings but managed to joke with firefighters as they freed her; Christopher Foster, 7, from Bishop Stortford, who has bone cancer; Gillian Cash, 8, from Paisley, who was born with a congenital heart condition; Ashley Read, 14, from Cobham, Surrey, who fell into a bonfire and suffered 70 per cent burns; and Joe Davis, 12, from York, who took the controls of a light aircraft while his father radioed for help after their landing gear collapsed. The awards were attended by the pop singer Gary Barlow and the footballer Ian Wright.

Duchess honours courage of child who survived hammer attack

By EMMA WILKINS

JOSIE RUSSELL, the nine-year-old girl who witnessed the murder of her mother and sister, was among children honoured by the Duchess of Kent at a special service in Westminster Abbey yesterday.

The girl suffered serious head injuries in the hammer attack in July and is having to learn to speak again. Despite this, and the pain of losing her mother, Lin, 45, and sister Megan, 6, she has helped police to build up a picture of the killer.

PC Pauline Smith, who has been her constant companion since the

attack near the family home in Kent, nominated her for one of eight Children of Courage awards sponsored by *Woman's Own* magazine.

The girl suffers panic attacks if approached by strangers, but tries to be cheerful and is a great comfort to her father, Shaun Russell, a lecturer.

"If she sees me getting downhearted she comes up to me and pushes the corners of my mouth up to make me smile," Dr Russell said.

"She has been like a rock to me.

She has been incredibly firm for a girl who has quite a little, timid character. Christmas will be a very difficult time, but we will try to keep

too many upsetting memories from our minds."

PC Smith said: "She has a very strong character. The courage she has displayed has been tremendous. I am very proud of her."

The Duchess, who recently disclosed that she has chronic fatigue syndrome, showed no sign of tiredness as she played with the children during the 23rd annual awards. She struck up an instant rapport with Kimberley Territ, 2, from Camberley, Surrey. In January Kimberley was in tears because of pain in her head. A brain tumour was diagnosed and she was left blind after surgery to

remove it. Her mother, Margaret, said: "I'm very proud of her and it was easy to see that she won the Duchess's heart straight away."

Radha Patel, 8, from Portsmouth, went to her father's aid when two men broke into his shop. She wrestled with one of them as he threatened her father with a knife, giving him time to push a panic button.

"I wasn't scared and I would do exactly the same again. I just wanted to save my dad," she said. "I grabbed the man's hair and then, wham, I punched him in the face. Dad pushed the button and they ran off."

The other winners were Amy



Josie Russell with the Duchess of Kent yesterday

9 pence per minute to listen to answerphone messages. This is four times less than any other national mobile network. No additional costs. No small print.

Available from Orange on 0800 8010 80, or from Dixons, Carphone Warehouse, The Link, Tandy, Comet, Currys, John Lewis Partnership, Peoples Phone, Granada, Norweb, Orange Shops and other leading stores nationwide.

BA man wins 'dirty tricks' damages

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A FORMER public relations consultant for British Airways won £20,000 damages yesterday over claims in a book that he was a professional "pedlar of lies" who helped to instigate a smear campaign against Virgin Atlantic.

Brian Basham, 52, had sued the author Mervyn Gregory and the publishers Little, Brown and Co over allegations in *Dirty Tricks: British Airways' Secret War Against Virgin Atlantic* that he had distributed damaging and false information about Virgin and its founder, Richard Branson.

The High Court was told that Mr Basham worked as a consultant to BA from 1985 to 1993, when Virgin claims that BA waged a "dirty tricks" propaganda war against it. Mr Basham co-operated fully with Mr Gregory's book but said he was shocked when a "one-sided, partial and biased account" emerged.

Mr Basham denied "trash-ing" Virgin and claimed he spent a lot of time trying to stop BA's management from implementing "lots of wild ideas about rubbishing and denigrating" the airline.

Patrick Milne, QC, for Mr Basham, said he had been used as a scapegoat by British Airways after its capitulation in 1993 in libel proceedings brought by Mr Branson. Mr Milne said that, while the issue was not whether British Airways had launched a dirty tricks campaign, "certainly Mr Basham believes there was such a campaign".

Little, Brown and Co were ordered not to distribute further copies of the book, just out in paperback. The firm faces a legal bill estimated at £400,000 and plans to appeal.

Outside court, Mr Basham said: "In 1993 Richard Branson and BA combined to make a statement in open court blaming me for being part of a dirty tricks campaign. Since then I have been fighting to clear my name and today I have succeeded."

orange

BTCH Telecom

'We don't argue the rights and wrongs of the law, but we must deal with its consequences'

Red Cross to feed London's starving asylum seekers

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

THE Red Cross is to distribute food parcels in Britain for the first time in nearly 50 years. It says new government immigration controls have reduced refugees to the poverty levels of famine-stricken Third World countries.

The international organisation has added three refugee day centres in London to its long Christmas list. Half the Red Cross aid budget is spent in Africa, with Afghanistan, Georgia and Colombia among other big beneficiaries. The main criterion for aid is hunger, a spokesman for the International Red Cross in Geneva said. "If someone is hungry then it is our mission to feed them."

From tomorrow until January 2,200 parcels a day will be delivered for distribution among asylum seekers who are regular visitors to centres in Vauxhall, Camden and Newham. Each package is meant to last for two days. The £10,000 cost will come from the discretionary fund of the British Red Cross, which its director-general, Mike Whitham, can spend where he considers there is a need.

Mr Whitham said: "We do not argue the rights and wrongs of the law, but as a hu-

manitarian organisation we have to deal with its consequences. We have focused on the most vulnerable group, who are very depressed and just do not know where their next meal is coming from."

They would be in desperate straits without this help because at this time of year many of the places they can go to beg for help are closed."

In February the Government withdrew benefits from asylum seekers who did not make an application immediately on arrival. That was ruled illegal by the High Court in June and benefits were reinstated, only to be withdrawn again when the Asylum and Immigration Act was passed on July 24.

By September at least 10,000 people had lost their benefit entitlement and the Refugee Council began dealing with an increasing flow. The situation changed again in October, when the High Court ruled that local authorities had a duty under the 1948 National Assistance Act to provide shelter, warmth and food.

A government appeal against that decision will be heard on January 13-14. Until then local authorities are obliged to provide minimal help,

Leading article, page 17



From toothpaste to sardines: the contents of parcels to be distributed at three refugee day centres in London

Saved - by eggs and legs from home

By ALAN HAMILTON

PROBABLY the oddest Red Cross parcel dispatched from Britain was dropped from a Blenheim bomber over France on August 19, 1941. Addressed to Wing Commander D.R.S. Bader, the bulky package contained a replacement pair of artificial legs.

The flying ace had left one tin leg trapped in the cockpit of his damaged Spitfire and had bent the other as he baled out. His German captors, who regarded their adversary with the highest admiration, allowed the bomber safe passage to drop the replacement limbs,

allowing their prisoner some mobility in his new home at Colditz.

For thousands of ordinary prisoners of war, the Red Cross parcel was a lifeline to survival. By May 1945 more than 20 million parcels, packed at 17 centres throughout Britain, had been shipped by the British Red Cross and the Order of St John to neutral Lisbon for distribution to British and Commonwealth PoWs.

The contents were intended to provide a vital dietary supplement to inadequate prison food. There would usually be a quarter pound of Maypole tea, a tin of Rowntree's cocoa, a tin of condensed milk and a bar of soap. Other regular

items were cans of Crosse and Blackwell's Scotch herrings, dinned meat roll, cheese, dried eggs, jam, margarine, vegetables, biscuits, a bar of chocolate and a tin of 50 cigarettes.

Even the home-dwelling British enjoyed the benefit of food parcels in the austerity of the immediate postwar years. Canadian families, moved by the severe rationing in the mother country, donated many thousands of food parcels in 1948. In the previous year, when severe flooding affected 45,000 British homes and 130,000 people, the Red Cross distributed more than 26,000 cases of food and milk.

Cleric who attacked Thought for Day moves on

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A CLERGYMAN who publicly attacked a BBC *Thought for the Day* broadcast by a vicar's wife is to leave his job as the Church of England's communications director.

The Rev Eric Sheog said: "I want to emphasise that discussions about my move began long before the *Thought for the Day* broadcast. All clergy at Church House work on five-year contracts which can be extended for a maximum of two years. I started in 1990, always knowing I would have to go in 1997."

Mr Sheog, who was previously head of religious broadcasting for the Independent Broadcasting Authority, covering ITV, Channel 4 and independent radio, is to become head of communications for the London diocese. He said it was understandable that many would see his move as a downwards step, adding: "But where do you go after being head of religious programming for the IBA and head of communications for the Church of England?"

Last month Anne Atkins used Radio 4's daily religious slot to condemn the Church of England for letting Southwark Cathedral be used for the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement's twentieth anniversary celebrations.

Mr Sheog complained that her broadcast had been inaccurate and "a serious error of judgment", and demanded an apology from the BBC. He faced hostile questions at the General Synod last month, when members voiced support for Mrs Atkins and said that he had no authority to condemn her.

Yesterday the Right Rev Richard Charlies, Bishop of London, said: "London fortunate to have attracted someone of Eric Sheog's ability, commitment and experience."

Mrs Atkins, who condemned the cathedral for "celebrating 20 years of gay sex", has maintained a high profile, recently becoming agony aunt on a national newspaper.



Sheog: leaving job as church media chief

Dixons

ONE MONTH'S FREE LINE RENTAL

ON TALK 15 SAVE £17.63

DANCALL

LOWEST EVER PRICE

DC1 MOBILEPHONE

- Up to 60 minutes talktime/16 hours standby time.
- 85 name and number memory.
- Microphone mute.
- Keypad lock.

£19.99*

Dixons Deal

MOTOROLA MR1 MOBILE PHONE

- Up to 60 minutes talktime/11 hours standby time.
- 180 name and number memory.
- 2 line LCD display.
- Battery/signal strength indicators.

£9.99

NOKIA ORANGE 15 MOBILEPHONE

- Up to 60 minutes talktime/22 hours standby time.
- 128 name and number memory.
- Supports data transmission.

£7.99

OPEN EVERY DAY UNTIL CHRISTMAS

£19.99*

Dixons

*When you connect to Orange. Subject to status.

Ask about our range of tariffs, prices and terms.

lets urge ca
over change
quarantine 1

of bluebell
a healing
ampling feet

VER'S
ELS

DECEMBER 19
Cleric who
attacked
Thought
for Day
moves on

THE TIMES THURSDAY DECEMBER 19 1996

HOME NEWS 7

Vets urge caution over changes to quarantine rules

BY MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

VETS warned yesterday against an early change to quarantine controls and called for more evidence that alternative safeguards would keep out rabies.

Karl Linklater, president of the British Veterinary Association, said vets still needed to be persuaded that a system based on vaccination and blood tests could provide the same protection as quarantine. "A standardised procedure for the microchip identification of dogs and cats would be an absolute pre-condition for any relaxation of quarantine," Dr Linklater said. "We have no problems with the science of a system based on vaccination, blood testing and microchipping, provided it is properly implemented and enforced."

"It is only within the last month that the International Standards Organisation has published part two of its standard for microchips, and individual companies have

still to adopt it." He added that the Government should not underestimate the difficulty of controlling the much larger number of pets likely to enter Britain as a result of abolition of quarantine. The association estimates that up to 250,000 dogs, and cats could enter Britain each year, compared with about 9,500 now.

Dr Linklater said the gap between what looked acceptable on paper and what could be enforced in practice had been shown by the difficulty the Government had experienced in making slaughterhouses comply with controls on "mad cow" disease.

The association has been under pressure from within its own ranks to press for revision of the rabies laws. In October a group calling itself Vets in Support of Change castigated the present laws as an "anachronism and indefensible on scientific grounds".

Last week the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to

Animals announced that it would lobby the Government for a switch to a system based on vaccination, blood tests to prove that animals had been immunised, and permanent identification. The society argued that such a system could provide "an equal, if not greater, protection from rabies as quarantine".

With the Kennel Club, the RSPCA runs a computer database for microchipped dogs, which number about 300,000 of the seven million in Britain. The chip is the size of a grain of rice and is implanted in loose skin around the dog's neck. It costs £30 to have a dog microchipped and registered on the database. Each chip carries a unique ten-digit identification number for the database, which holds the animal's details.

The Government is conducting a review of quarantine. Ireland is the only other country that requires six months' quarantine for pets



Edwin the boxer about to be injected with a microchip. The chip carries the ID number for a computer database

Pit bull terrier has become a dying breed

BY RICHARD FORD

THE pit bull terrier is on the way to being eliminated from Britain owing to the success of one of the most criticised pieces of government legislation.

The breed's numbers have fallen from an estimated 8,600 to 3,500, with 430 destroyed, since the Dangerous Dogs Act

came into operation five years ago. The rest have died. Vets believe that the remainder could go within five years.

Yesterday, however, the Home Affairs Select Committee recommended a relaxation of the Act's harshest provisions, such as the death penalty for dogs that are not neutered, muzzled in public and insured. Sir Ivan Lawrence, its chairman,

said: "Despite being held up as the classic example of an Act passed in haste and in response to tabloid pressure, it was necessary and has been successful."

The committee of MPs also recommended "ball" for dogs awaiting a verdict, increased visiting rights to those held in kennels and the reintroduction of dog licences.

SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES



THE GREAT
SALES GUIDE
Where to shop till
you drop
in Weekend



DREAM CARS
Your Christmas wish-list
in Car '96
PLUS
WEEKEND MONEY
THE DIRECTORY
and 1015, our magazine
for young readers

Carpet of bluebells takes a beating from trampling feet

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S beauty spots are in danger of being trampled to death by the growing number of ramblers, campers and mountain bikers pouring into the countryside.

Jim Littlemore, an ecologist at Warwick University who has been studying the impact on woodland plants such as foxgloves, violets and bluebells, believes the time is coming when numbers visiting more popular woods will have to be controlled.

The effects of people using three woods in Warwickshire — Tocil, Tolehill and Crackley — were measured by a network of pressure gauges. Mr Littlemore found that about 8 per cent of the ground became bare when 258 people a year strolled through an area of woodland. The proportion of bare ground rose to 40 per cent when the numbers rose to 1,947. The wood then became prone to erosion and more hardy, but less attractive plants moved in.

Mr Littlemore also told the British Ecological Society, meeting at Durham University, that he had studied the impact of simulated trampling on the health of bluebells. Seed production among a carpet of bluebells declined to 10 per cent of that of an

undisturbed patch after an estimated 200 people had passed through. The effect on seed production persisted for a year after the trampling. Bluebell cover also dropped sharply if the plants were trampled on every spring, the research showed.

Richard Smithers, of the Woodlands Trust, a charity which manages 800 woods with free public access, said yesterday that the trust was already using paths and rides to steer people away from sensitive areas.

■ Hopes of saving one of Britain's rarest moths, the netted carpet moth, from extinction have received a boost with the discovery of a large and healthy colony near Brougham in Cumbria in the Lake District. The moth, which also has a small colony in North Wales, has been listed as in need of urgent action under the Government's recently published biodiversity action plan.

Its fate is linked with an equally rare small flower, called the touch-me-not balsam, on which the larval stages of the moth depend. The balsam is so called because its pods can fire the large, heavy seeds up to two metres.

RE-DECORATE YOUR LIVING ROOM THIS CHRISTMAS.

Light up with
a candle,
coloured or
patterned
in all shapes
and sizes.
From £1.99
for two.

A charming Azalea in a ceramic pot
for a fresh look this Christmas.
£6.99.

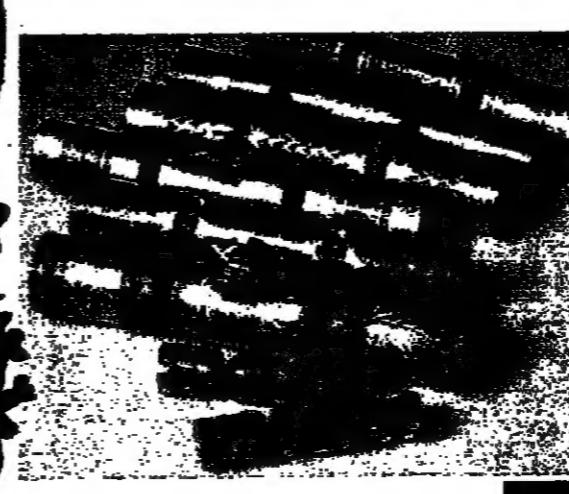
What could be more appropriate for
Christmas than a traditional red poinsettia.
From £2.99. Other colours available.

This elegant pine candlelight arrangement
looks welcoming on any table,
window sill or sideboard. £19.99.

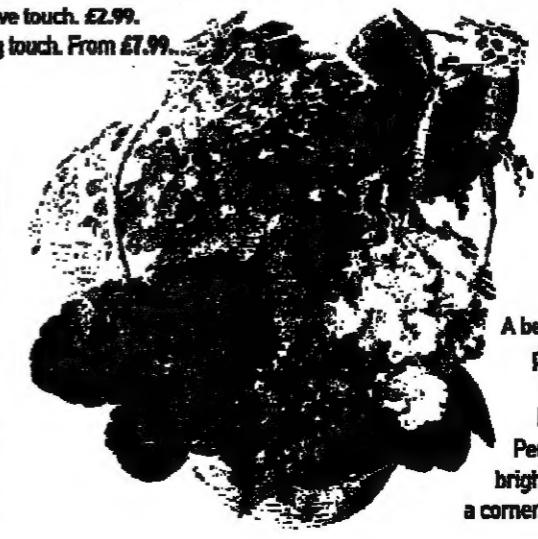
Attractive, ready planted Victorian style, large, golden
bamboo basket. Still popular today. £14.99.

Ceramic
Figures.
An interesting way
to decorate your
Christmas table and all of
them individually designed
and painted by hand.
From £1.99.

Snowman and Father Christmas ceramic planters add that festive touch. £2.99.
The hand assembled poinsettia and rose garland add the finishing touch. From £7.99.



Make Christmas Day go with a bang.
With crackers of all kinds for children and
dinner parties. From £2.25 for 12.



A beautiful
planted
willow basket.
Perfect to
brighten up
a corner. £7.99.

HOMEBASE
SAKSURY'S HOUSE AND GARDEN CENTRES

Now On Video
GULLIVER'S TRAVELS
for the BIG and the SMALL



TED DANSON
PETER O'TOOLE, JAMES FOX,
SIR JOHN Gielgud, EDWARD WOODWARD,
NICHOLAS HYNDHURST, RICHARD WILSON,
KRISTIN SCOTT THOMAS

"Brilliant, compelling, witty... destined to become a classic." — The Times

"The cast is a Who's Who of Britain's leading actors." — The Sunday Times

This Channel 4 visual extravaganza is a collection of the television events of 1996. Something for everyone, big and small, old and young. To keep an eye on it.



AVAILABLE ON VHS AND DVD. £19.99

ANOS

Nato plans snatch squad to hunt war criminals in Bosnia

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A PROPOSAL to set up a special police squad to hunt down war criminals in the former Yugoslavia was approved yesterday by Nato defence ministers in Brussels.

The ministers expressed concern that, since the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina ended more than a year ago, only seven of the 74 indicted war criminals had been captured, one of whom was convicted last month by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

Although there is a 1,700-strong international police task force already in Bosnia, its role is to monitor law and order — it is not empowered to track down indicted war criminals.

The new 31,000-man Nato-led Stabilisation Force (Sfor), which takes over the peacekeeping role in Bosnia from tomorrow, is also not mandated to go after suspected war criminals.

An American official at the Nato meeting said there was broad agreement in principle to send a war crimes squad to Bosnia to arrest indicted war criminals on behalf of the international tribunal.

The official said the police force could operate either directly to the tribunal or under the auspices of the European Union or the Organisation on Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The ministers

were unanimous that Sfor troops should not be given the task of arresting indicted war criminals. However, they could co-ordinate closely with the police force, the American official said.

He said the next step was to work out who would run the war crimes squad, how it would be organised and who would contribute to it.

It is acknowledged that any attempt to track down and arrest popular Serb figures such as Radovan Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb President, could lead to confrontation and undermine the peacekeeping efforts. However, the Dayton peace accord obliges the three former war-

NATO defence ministers suffered a setback yesterday in their attempts to work more closely with Russia (Michael Evans writes). At a Brussels meeting with Igor Rodionov, their Russian counterpart, they proposed an exchange of military liaison officers, to be based at key command centres. He called the offer premature. A Russian general already serves at Nato's Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe to help to co-ordinate the Russians' involvement in Bosnia.

Two Serbs are charged with killings and other atrocities at Lukac camp in Brcko in north-eastern Bosnia.

Austerity puts paid to presents in Italy

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

YOU would not know it from the crowds thronging the festively decorated shopping streets of Rome and Milan, but Italy is experiencing what *Il Messaggero*, yesterday called "an austerity Christmas".

Along with other newspapers, it published a survey showing that one in five Italians has decided not to give any Christmas presents this year. "It is not so much that they are poor, more that we feel as if we are," the paper said: "Italians are spending their money more prudently."

Italy is an affluent society, and Italians secretly believe their cities are the most charming in Europe, their women the most beautiful and their wines the most drinkable. But paradoxically they also have a tendency toward self-flagellation, accentuated at the moment by the fear that they are not really in Europe's "big league" and will fail to qualify for the single currency, despite the prodigious efforts of the centre-left Government of Professor Romano Prodi to meet the Maastricht criteria.

The survey revealed that 20 per cent of Italians (and a higher proportion in the disadvantaged South) believe that they are "poor". Even more significantly, 43 per cent think they soon will be. Italians are not relishing the prospect of paying a "Euro tax" next year to help to reduce the budget deficit.

Monaco princesses 'lax about private lives', says brother

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PRINCE ALBERT of Monaco, the heir to the Mediterranean principality, said yesterday that publicity surrounding his sisters' troubled private lives may have been party of their own making.

"My sisters have not always taken or wanted to take precautions because it was too constraining," the 38-year-old bachelor prince said, adding that he had gone to great lengths to keep his emotional life out of the public eye. "Because I saw what happened to my sisters, I protected myself even more ... we have been horribly treated like film stars, and people think they have the right to intrude," Prince Albert told *Le Figaro* newspaper, on the eve of a trip to Rome to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the Grimaldi dynasty.

Asked why he has yet to marry, the prince said he was not linked to "anybody in a



Prince Albert dislikes "film star" treatment

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PET OWNERS

DROPLIX INSECTICIDAL SOLUTION

Recall of Batches:

21 to 42 of DROPLIX CAT inclusive
17 to 27 of DROPLIX DOG inclusive

(all large dog, medium-size dog, small dog presentations)

The recall is necessary because of evidence of degradation in some pipettes of these batches.

Please check your cupboard for affected batches of Drolpix and return them to your Veterinary Practice.

Please note that batches later than 42 of Drolpix Cat and 27 of Drolpix Dog are not affected by this notice.

Further information available on request from

Virbac Limited
Cambridge Innovation Centre II,
278 Cambridge Science Park,
Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 4WE



Spielberg rescues star's Oscar

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

STEVEN Spielberg, the director, has presented Clark Gable's only Oscar to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences after buying it anonymously at auction for a record \$607,500 (£368,000).

The surprise gift brings a treasured symbol of Hollywood's golden era back to the institution that awards the Oscar. The Academy, which trowns on the resale of its awards, had failed in a last-minute bid to stop the auction at Christie's Beverly Hills branch with a court order.

With a chipped marble base and brass showing through its gold-plating, the Best Actor Oscar Gable won in 1934 for his role as a reporter in *It Happened One Night* was bought by Spielberg with a telephone bid.

The previous record price for an Oscar was \$563,500 paid in 1993 for Vivien Leigh's Best Actress award for *Gone With The Wind*.



Kofi Annan is hugged by Ismail Razali, president of the General Assembly, after he was sworn in as Secretary-General at the UN

Annan promises to streamline the UN for 21st-century role

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

KOFI ANNAN, the new United Nations Secretary-General, said yesterday that he hoped to work with member states to "reposition" the organisation for the next century.

In an amiable press conference that marked a break with the haughty style of his predecessor, Boutros Boutros Ghali, Mr Annan, who takes office on January 1, said he planned to continue streamlining the bureaucracy while seeking consensus on more fundamental changes in the UN's role. "What I would hope to do during the period I am in office is to work with the member states and redefine the role of this organisation and perhaps prepare it for the 21st century," he said.

He added that he expected the first results of this debate within his first six months in office. Mr Annan's election as the next UN chief has raised hopes that the United States, which backed his candidacy, may now make good on its \$1.4 billion (£838 million) in arrears to the organisation.

Mr Annan said he was confident that the Clinton Administration would do all it could to repay the debt, and that the UN would also do its part with continuing reforms. "I expect to work with the Administration, and through them the Congress, to get the US to pay the money due to the organisation," he said.

Mr Annan, a career UN official who has run the UN peacekeeping department for the last three years, emphasised that he would manage the UN with a "collegial-style" and sought to reassure the embattled UN staff.

"I am not setting out with the

objective that I have to lay off staff, but if, as part of the reform process, some departures are necessary it will have to be done, but it will be done in a humane and sensitive manner," he said.

Mr Annan hinted that Britain, which had strongly backed him, might lose its top post in the UN hierarchy in return for another similar position. British diplomats have already begun lobbying for Britain to keep the post of Under Secretary-General of political affairs when Marrack Goulding, now the highest-ranking Briton at UN headquarters, leaves the post to become head of St Antony's, Oxford, next year.

Mr Goulding took the UN job a decade ago when Sir Brian Urquhart retired after many years at the organisation. Mr Annan said he wanted to "rotate" the top jobs between different countries so that no nation came to believe that it had a right to a particular post.

With Mr Annan's promotion from head of peacekeeping, vacancies now exist in both the department of peacekeeping and political affairs, the two most important units of the UN secretariat. France, which lifted its threat to veto Mr Annan's appointment, has been pushing for a high-level job at the UN.

The new Secretary-General said that the 15-nation Security Council reflected the political and economic realities of 1945 and should be brought up to date. He endorsed claims by Germany and Japan to permanent membership of the council, but added that "they will get in with others".

Leading article, page 17

The baby on the left finds it hard to sit up.

In a month she might have the occasional spasm.

In a year she won't be walking because her legs will be taut one moment and floppy the next.

Then her problems will really begin. People will notice she's different. They'll start treating her differently.

Right at this point her rights to education, employment and housing will be out of her control because she can't control her limbs.

And it doesn't get any better. Later, she'll find entering society impossible because she won't be able to enter polling stations, public buildings or public transport.

Which brings us to today. Human Rights Day. When we ask you to remember that disabled people have just as many rights as non-disabled people.

Scope currently works, not just today but every day for people with cerebral palsy so that they might lead a full life on equal terms just like everybody else.

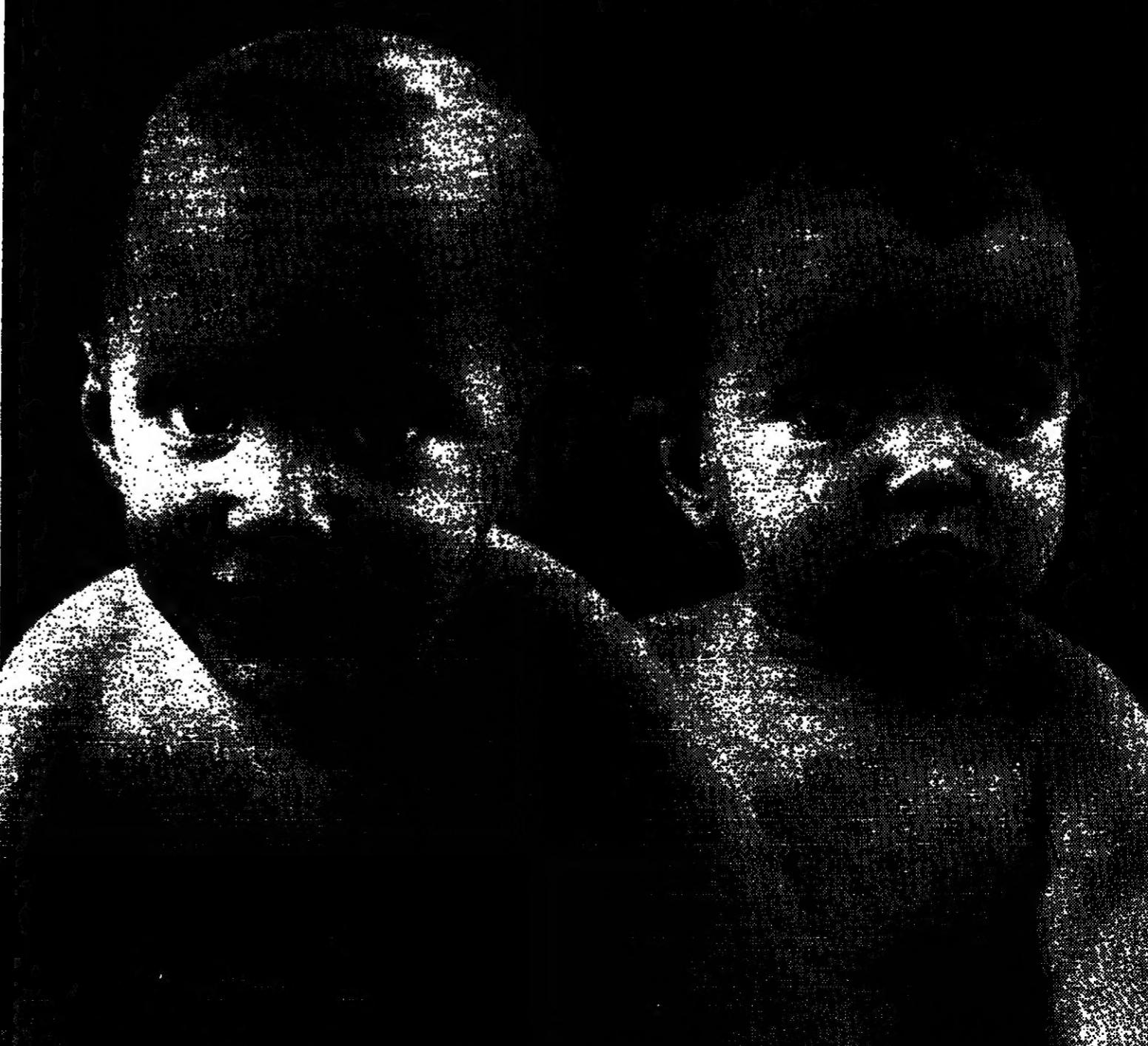
For example, we could provide the baby on the left with physiotherapy at one of our centres followed by education at one of our schools and work experience at one of our colleges, or, indeed, training to live in her own home.

We can't cure cerebral palsy. But we can do our best to cure society's prejudice. To this end, we need your money, your time, your money and your positive attitude. For more information call Scope on 0890 62 42 16.

And remember, if you value your civil rights, isn't it wrong to deny them to others? Think about it.

SCOPE
The Spastics Society
Formerly The Spastics Society

One has cerebral palsy.
The other has full human rights.





FBI agent on spying charge

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

THE FBI arrested one of its own agents yesterday on charges of spying for Russia.

Earl Edwin Pitts, 43, an FBI supervisor, was accused of selling sensitive classified documents to Moscow for more than five years, a charge that could carry the death penalty. He made a brief court appearance in Alexandria, Virginia, and was remanded in custody until tomorrow. It was alleged he had been paid more than \$224,000 (£136,000).

Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, and Louis Freeh, the FBI Director, were scheduled to give a news conference at which they were expected to emphasise that the arrests proved the Government's efficiency in capturing those who betray its secrets.

France increases security amid fear of holiday bomb

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRENCH police have boosted security at stations, airports and public buildings amid fears that Islamic terrorists may launch further bomb attacks in Christmas week.

Since the attack on a crowded Paris commuter train on December 3, which killed four people and injured dozens of others, hundreds of additional troops and armed police have been patrolling potential targets and carrying out identity checks across France.

Christmas Eve, the second anniversary of the hijacking of a French plane by Islamic terrorists, is seen as the most likely date for a resumption of violence by Algerian fundamentalists, who accuse France of supporting the military-backed regime in Algiers.

On December 24, 1994, four members of the militant Algerian Armed Islamic Group (GIA) took 170 hostages on an Air France jet in Algiers. The plane was stormed 56 hours later at Marseilles airport by French anti-terrorist police and the hijackers were killed. The Islamic guerrillas had planned to blow up the plane over Paris.

That incident, regarded as a key symbolic date in the GIA calendar, set off a chain of tit-for-tat violence. Three days

after the failed hijacking, three French priests were murdered in Algeria.

In the 24 hours to yesterday morning, 6,146 people were subjected to identity checks in France. Paris police said yesterday, and LS7 vehicles were stopped and searched in the massive security operation code-named Vigipirate. More than 100 people, many suspected of being illegal immigrants, were taken into custody for questioning.

The security plan, relaxed in recent months, was brought back into full force on the order of President Chirac after the rush-hour bombing at Port Royal station earlier this month.

Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, was among the first to visit the scene of the bombing. He has been working with ministers since to co-ordinate the additional security. The political stakes are high for the unpopular M Juppé, who is acutely aware that a renewed terrorist campaign is certain to cause a further erosion of voters' confidence in the embattled Government.

Scores of bomb alerts have been reported in Paris during the past two weeks, including a false bomb threat at the Paris Bourse that closed the Paris Bourse that closed the exchange for several hours. Shoppers at all the capital's larger department stores are being searched on entry, and all rubbish bins at "sensitive sites" have been sealed.

Meanwhile, forensic scientists suggest the bomb in the train attack may have been slightly different from those used last year. Unlike previous attacks, the gas-canister bomb had previously contained petrol, igniting a fireball. French police are still searching for Ali Touchem, alias Tarek, the 39-year-old GIA "emir" suspected of recruiting youths in Lyons to carry out last year's attacks. M Touchem's alleged recruits included Khaled Kelkal, the bomber shot dead by police in September last year.

The GIA has recently been convulsed by violent internal feuds, and French experts on Islamic terrorism say that since last year's attacks the group appears to have dispatched more sophisticated, smaller units to carry out terrorist actions in France, which are far harder to trace.

"With the approach of Ramadan, there are calls for this war to redouble in ferocity," Maati Kabil, an Islamic expert, wrote in *Liberation* newspaper yesterday.

Alain Juppé, left, the French Prime Minister, and Bernard Pons, the Transport Minister, after the Cabinet agreed a decree on the working hours of lorry drivers.



GARETH WATKINS/REUTERS

Cypriot wins land right case

Nicosia: Cyprus hailed a landmark ruling by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg that Turkey had violated the right to property of a Greek Cypriot woman.

Michael Theodoulou writes. She has been denied access to her land since Turkish forces went into the north of the island 22 years ago.

"It is a great success," declared President Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader. The judgment is expected to open the floodgates for further claims by about 180,000 Cypriots, including many now living in Britain.

Nigerians held

Lagos: Nigerian police arrested three people after a bomb explosion injured 12 soldiers near the offices of the military administrator of Lagos state, Colonel Muhammad Marwa. (AFP)

Release ruling

Karachi: A court has ordered the release of Asif Ali Zardari, husband of Benazir Bhutto, the deposed Prime Minister, ruling his detention unlawful, leaders of the Pakistan People's Party said. (Reuters)

Cost of Marcos

San Francisco: A federal appeals court has upheld £1.2 billion in damages against Ferdinand Marcos's estate for the torture and killing of 10,000 Filipinos during his 14-year presidency. (AP)

Killer shot dead

Kabul: A man who killed a pregnant Afghan woman and her three children during a burglary was shot dead by the victim's husband in a public execution ordered by Taliban under Islamic law. (Reuters)

Mock execution

Dushanbe: United Nations observers monitoring the implementation of a ceasefire in Tajikistan were subjected to a mock execution by Tajik government troops the UN mission here said. (Reuters)

Students killed

Nairobi: Kenyan police shot dead two students during a riot at Kenyatta University in Nairobi. The protest was over the killing on Tuesday of a student at Egerton University in Njoro. (Reuters)

Songwriter dies

New York: Irving Caesar, the lyricist who wrote *Tea for Two* in a five-minute burst of inspiration in Manhattan's Tin Pan Alley in 1925, has died at the age of 101. Obituary, page 19

only Currys bring you all this

OUR BIGGEST EVER CHOICE OF GIFTS

OVER 2000 GIFTS TO TAKE AWAY NOW

KETTLES AND TOASTERS
SAVE UP TO £3

RUSSELL HOBBS
Cordless Any Kettle
Cordless kettle with 1.7 litre capacity and 3 heat settings. Includes 20 disc elements. Model 17000. Currys Price £36.99. DEAL GIFT

SWAN
Green Gift Set
Cordless kettle and 2 slice toaster. In-store Price £64.99. VOUCHER PRICE £39.99

SWAN
Variable browning
Variable browning. Model KX101. Voucher Increase to £20.99. on 26/12.

SWAN
Variable browning
Variable browning. Model KX101. Voucher Increase to £20.99. on 26/12.

HITACHI
Mains/Rechargeable
Mains/rechargeable. 1 hour charge time. Rechargeable. Model KX101. Voucher Increase to £20.99. on 26/12.

REMINGTON
Foot Spa Whirl
Foot Spa Whirl. 4 settings. Model 2540. Was £29.99. Voucher Price £39.99

BRAUN
Personal Toothbrush
Mains powered toothbrush. As Long Hair. Currys Price £34.99. DEAL GIFT

PHILIPS
Handy Deep Fryer
Handy Deep Fryer. 2 slice. 2.5 litre capacity. 2 heat settings. Model HDP102. Was £49.99. Voucher Price £44.99

PERSONAL CARE
UP TO HALF PRICE

BRAUN
Supreme "Dual" Shaver
In 1000 wet and dry. 2 heat settings. Model 5100. Currys Price £24.99. DEAL GIFT

REMINGTON
Foot Spa Whirl
Foot Spa Whirl. 4 settings. Model 2540. Was £29.99. Voucher Price £39.99

PHILIPS
Handy Deep Fryer
Handy Deep Fryer. 2 slice. 2.5 litre capacity. 2 heat settings. Model HDP102. Was £49.99. Voucher Price £44.99

FOOD PREPARATION
SAVE UP TO £20

CARLTON
Sandwich Toaster
Easy clean. Currys Price £5.99. DEAL GIFT

MOULINEX
Mashed Food Processor
In 220 watts. 1000ml. 3 blades for different textures. Model MFP100. Currys Price £20. Voucher Price £9.99

MOULINEX
Cordless Deep Fryer
In 2.5 litre capacity. Touch and go. Voucher Price £20. Voucher Price £9.99

MOULINEX
Cordless Deep Fryer
In 2.5 litre capacity. Touch and go. Voucher Price £20. Voucher Price £9.99

FREE COOKBOOK

MATSLI
1.0 cu ft
Touch Control
In 1000 watts power output. In On/Off control. Model 1000. Currys Price £79.99. DEAL GIFT

MATSLI
1.0 cu ft
Touch Control
In 1000 watts power output. In On/Off control. Model 1000. Currys Price £79.99. DEAL GIFT

MICROWAVES
SAVE UP TO £70

MATSLI
5.0 cu ft
5.0 cu ft
In 1000 watts power output. Model 1000. Currys Price £79.99. DEAL GIFT

MATSLI
5.0 cu ft
5.0 cu ft
In 1000 watts power output. Model 1000. Currys Price £79.99. DEAL GIFT

ALL THE LATEST
CD & VIDEO RELEASES

101 DALMATIANS
DVD
13.99

ROBSON & JEROME
VHS
13.99

JUMANJI
VHS
13.99

NOW 35
VHS
13.99

MON
VHS
13.99

EXCLUSIVES
DIRECT

DIRT DEVIL
Handheld Vacuum
In 7.5 metre cord. A 240 volt motor. Model 1000. Currys Price £79.99. DEAL GIFT

BLACK & DECKER
Classic Dryer
At lightweight. 2.4 kg power. Currys Price £29.99. DEAL GIFT

BLACK & DECKER
IDEAL GIFT
IDEAL GIFT

EXCLUSIVES
DIRECT

DIRT DEVIL
Handheld Vacuum
In 7.5 metre cord. A 240 volt motor. Currys Price £79.99. DEAL GIFT

BLACK & DECKER
IDEAL GIFT
IDEAL GIFT

EXCLUSIVES
DIRECT

DIRT DEVIL
Handheld Vacuum
In 7.5 metre cord. A 240 volt motor. Currys Price £79.99. DEAL GIFT

BLACK & DECKER
IDEAL GIFT
IDEAL GIFT

EXCLUSIVES
DIRECT

DIRT DEVIL
Handheld Vacuum
In 7.5 metre cord. A 240 volt motor. Currys Price £79.99. DEAL GIFT

BLACK & DECKER
IDEAL GIFT
IDEAL GIFT

EXCLUSIVES
DIRECT

DIRT DEVIL
Handheld Vacuum
In 7.5 metre cord. A 240 volt motor. Currys Price £79.99. DEAL GIFT

BLACK & DECKER
IDEAL GIFT
IDEAL GIFT

EXCLUSIVES
DIRECT

DIRT DEVIL
Handheld Vacuum
In 7.5 metre cord. A 240 volt motor. Currys Price £79.99. DEAL GIFT

BLACK & DECKER
IDEAL GIFT
IDEAL GIFT

EXCLUSIVES
DIRECT

DIRT DEVIL
Handheld Vacuum
In 7.5 metre cord. A 240 volt motor. Currys Price £79.99. DEAL GIFT

BLACK & DECKER
IDEAL GIFT
IDEAL GIFT

EXCLUSIVES
DIRECT

DIRT DEVIL
Handheld Vacuum
In 7.5 metre cord. A 240 volt motor. Currys Price £79.99. DEAL GIFT

BLACK & DECKER
IDEAL GIFT
IDEAL GIFT

EXCLUSIVES
DIRECT

DIRT DEVIL
Handheld Vacuum
In 7.5 metre cord. A 240 volt motor. Currys Price £79.99. DEAL GIFT

BLACK & DECKER
IDEAL GIFT
IDEAL GIFT

EXCLUSIVES
DIRECT

DIRT DEVIL
Handheld Vacuum
In 7.5 metre cord. A 240 volt motor. Currys Price £79.99. DEAL GIFT

BLACK & DECKER
IDEAL GIFT
IDEAL GIFT

EXCLUSIVES
DIRECT

DIRT DEVIL
Handheld Vacuum
In 7.5 metre cord. A 240 volt motor. Currys Price £79.99. DEAL GIFT

BLACK & DECKER
IDEAL GIFT
IDEAL GIFT

EXCLUSIVES
DIRECT

DIRT DEVIL
Handheld Vacuum
In 7.5 metre cord. A 240 volt motor. Currys Price £79.99. DEAL GIFT

BLACK & DECKER
IDEAL GIFT
IDEAL GIFT

EXCLUSIVES
DIRECT

DIRT DEVIL
Handheld Vacuum
In 7.5 metre cord. A 240 volt motor. Currys Price £79.99. DEAL GIFT

BLACK & DECKER
IDEAL GIFT
IDEAL GIFT

EXCLUSIVES
DIRECT

DIRT DEVIL
Handheld Vacuum
In 7.5 metre cord. A 240 volt motor. Currys Price £79.99. DEAL GIFT

BLACK & DECKER
IDEAL GIFT
IDEAL GIFT

EXCLUSIVES
DIRECT

DIRT DEVIL
Handheld Vacuum
In 7.5 metre cord. A 240 volt motor. Currys Price £79.99. DEAL GIFT

BLACK & DECKER
IDEAL GIFT
IDEAL GIFT

EXCLUSIVES
DIRECT

</

THE ONLY HOPE FOR PEACE

WAS BORN IN THE
MIDDLE EAS*

THE BORN IN THE MIDDLE EAST

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

Y'shua (Jesus) is the Prince of Peace. He came to bring peace—lasting peace—to all the world. Want to know more about receiving peace from God? If you don't know Jesus, we'd like to send you Dr. Billy Graham's book, *Peace With God*. Just fill in the coupon and include £1 for postage and packing and we'll send you the book. Please allow 30 days for delivery.

I am not yet a believer and am filling in this coupon to request *Peace With God*. Enclosed is £1 to cover postage and packing.

I am Jewish I am a Gentile

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Phone (_____) _____



Please send to:
Jews for Jesus, 174 Finchley Rd.
London NW3 6BP

Visit our web site at:
<http://www.jews-for-jesus.org>

This message was brought to you by the friends of Jews for Jesus
who want you to know God's peace this Christmas and forever.

Jews for Jesus, 174 Finchley Rd. London NW3 6BP • <http://www.jews-for-jesus.org> • Registered Charity No. 1007336

Lima raid tests resolve of populist President

Alberto Fujimori appeared to have beaten inflation and political violence. Now the economic magic seems to be failing, and guerrillas have struck a symbolic target, says John Crabtree

PRESIDENT FUJIMORI has based his no-nonsense reputation on having dispatched Peru's two guerrilla movements, Sendero Luminoso and the Revolutionary Tupac Amaru Movement (MRTA). The latter's sudden reappearance as the perpetrators of the Lima hostage crisis threatens to damage his standing at home and abroad.

For much of the 1980s, the country was racked by violence from these two organisations. The Maoist-inspired Sendero set in motion what it hoped would be a "peasants' war" aimed at destroying the Peruvian state, provoking an equally severe backlash from the armed forces. Some 25,000 people were killed.

The MRTA was rather more restrained. Taking the Cuban revolution as its ideological cue, it sought to raise a rather more conventional, "anti-imperialist" standard, attacking principally America and more symbolic targets.

As recently as 1990, these two insurrections represented a real threat to political stability. Faced by a combination of rampant hyper-inflation and the proliferation of political murders and sabotage, Señor Fujimori owes much of his popularity since then to having restored relative calm. But this involved tough measures. Justifying himself by the need

to give greater autonomy to the army, he closed Congress in April 1992. Since then, through various manoeuvres, he has managed to rewrite the constitution, remove the bar on immediate re-election and get himself re-elected.

In spite of the Government's claims to have crushed the guerrillas, it has long been clear that they continued to operate at a reduced scale in various parts of the country. Indeed, Señor Fujimori acknowledged as much in this year's annual independence day speech on July 28.

Sendero, however, has been more in evidence than the MRTA. Consequently, the authorities have repeatedly refused to dismantle their anti-terrorist procedures, including the use of "faceless judges" to try those accused under draconian terrorist laws. The hostage crisis shows that a small group of motivated people can wreak havoc. For the MRTA, these are make-or-break tactics, de-



Police seize a suspected guerrilla outside the Japanese Ambassador's residence. Right, comfort is given to one woman freed by the gunmen, who threatened to kill the other hostages

Senior British envoy is held

BY MICHAEL BINNION, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND BILL FROST

ROGER CHURCH, deputy head of the British mission in Lima, is among the hostages but has managed to telephone his embassy to say he is unharmed.

Mr Church was unable to say whether any other British passport-holders were among the hostages and could give no further details of what was happening in the building. However, the Foreign Office said yesterday that it was keeping in close touch with the Peruvian authorities and had put into effect the usual emergency arrangements for dealing with incidents of this kind.

John Illman, the British Ambassador, also attended the Japanese reception, but left shortly before the terrorists seized the building. He was yesterday co-ordinating efforts to get Mr Church released. Britain, which has long experience of successful hostage negotiations, said it was ready to consider any request by the Peruvians for help, but has so far not been approached.

Mr. Church, 50, joined the Foreign

Office in 1965. He then rose through the ranks before taking the post in Lima two years ago. He was previously Deputy High Commissioner in the Bahamas, and has also served in Abu Dhabi, Bonn, East Berlin, Lusaka, Madras, Colombo and Quito.

Last night Mr Church was described by friends and colleagues as "stable and calm ... unlikely to lose his cool in a

could face this ordeal without going into a panic, it is him."

Last night Mr Church's wife, Kathleen, and two sons, aged 22 and 19, were being kept in close touch with developments. A British Embassy source in Lima said "they were bearing up well".

Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, has set up a crisis centre in Bonn to deal with the seizure of Herbert Wöckel, the German Ambassador, held together with the Austrian Ambassador and other foreign diplomats. The Foreign Ministry said Herr Wöckel was being held with around 15 others in one room of the residence. The German Ambassador to Bolivia has been ordered to go to Lima to take over the embassy, and a crisis specialist was last night flying out from Bonn.

Arthur Schuschnigg, the Austrian Ambassador, was also understood to be unharmed and was being held in one of the residence's bathrooms, according to a spokeswoman in Vienna.

DIPLOMATS

crisis". While Deputy High Commissioner in Bermuda in 1991, he impressed those who met him with a "typically British sang-froid". During his tour of duty he played host to Terry Waite after the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy was freed from captivity in Beirut.

Eileen Carron, publisher of the *Bermuda Tribune*, said Mr Church "had a very military bearing. He is very self-contained and very restrained. If anyone

signed to portray the Government as trampling on human rights at a time when Señor Fujimori's popularity appears to be in decline.

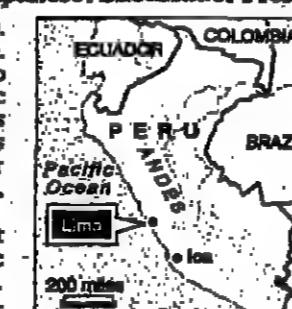
For the President, the crisis is one that puts his credibility on the line. On the one hand, foreign governments have been urging him to proceed with caution, avoiding bloodshed at all cost. On the other, an overly conciliatory response threatens to make him look weak and vacillating, not least in the eyes of Peru's armed forces, which have born the brunt of the war against the insurgency.

The outcome, therefore, is likely to have important consequences. Señor Fujimori has made no secret of his desire for another five years in office, since his term ends in 2000. But his stock is in decline. Opinion polls suggest he no longer enjoys the same public trust and loyalty as during his first term. There are others who are in the ascendant; for example the Mayor of Lima, Alberto Andrade.

Part of the problem is that Señor Fujimori's economic magic appears to be failing. Having conquered hyper-inflation and then presided over three years of rapid growth, culminating in last year's pre-election boom, the economy this year has stagnated. Faced at the beginning of the year with a current account deficit of Mexican proportions, Señor Fujimori was forced to slam on the brakes. Having awakened expectations of a better future, he has been forced to back-pedal.

One of the most difficult problems he faces is how to ensure that the average Peruvian feels the economic benefits of his Government's policies. Many more people work in the so-called "informal sector", where incomes are extremely low, than in proper jobs. The economic recovery of the past three years has not brought an appreciable difference to employment levels, while the yawning gap between rich and poor appears to have widened.

At the same time, Señor Fujimori has been roundly criticised for establishing an autocratic regime in which



democratic institutions have had little role to play in decision-making.

Political parties have been eclipsed, and play only a minor role in Congress. The ruling Cambio 90-Nueva Mayoría routinely outvotes the opposition and, broadly speaking, does Señor Fujimori's bidding. The military, meanwhile, exercises strong influence behind the scenes.

By selecting the Japanese Ambassador's residence for its attack, the MRTA has chosen a symbolic target. Partly because of his own origins as a second generation immigrant, Señor Fujimori has made much of the need to develop ties with East Asia and Japan in particular. Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, visited Lima this year, and Tokyo has offered Señor Fujimori preferential aid terms.

The author is an Oxford-based specialist in Peruvian politics.

Matthew Parris, page 16

Small rebel group has bloody history

BY MICHAEL DYNES

THE Revolutionary Tupac Amaru Movement, which staged yesterday's spectacular hostage seizure at the Japanese Ambassador's house, is the smaller of the two left-wing guerrilla organisations operating in Peru.

Founded in 1983 by student radicals committed to a Castro version of Marxist-Leninist ideology, the movement seeks

to destabilise the central government and expel foreign business interests through "armed propaganda".

The name comes from the 16th-century Inca leader, Tupac Amaru, who led an Indian uprising against the Spanish colonisers. As a result, many civilians have been jailed on flimsy evidence.

In 1992, the Peruvian Government chalked up two big counter-insurgency successes with the capture of Victor Polay Campos, the movement's leader, and Abimael Guzmán, the head of Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path), which concentrated its activi-

ties in rural areas. Tupac Amaru specialises in urban terror.

Even at its peak, however, it never had more than 1,000 fighters, compared to more than 10,000 recruited for its Maoist rival.

When President Fujimori took office in 1990, he threw the Government's internal security apparatus into an all-out war on both guerrilla movements. Human rights groups estimate that more than 1,200 rebels have been jailed on charges of subversion.

Under the "repentance laws", however, suspected guerrillas have been able to reduce their sentences by pointing the finger at their revolutionary comrades. As a result, many civilians have been jailed on flimsy evidence.

In 1992, the Peruvian Government chalked up two big counter-insurgency successes with the capture of Victor Polay Campos, the movement's leader, and Abimael Guzmán, the head of Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path), which concentrated its activi-

ties in rural areas. Tupac Amaru specialises in urban terror.

Even at its peak, however, it never had more than 1,000 fighters, compared to more than 10,000 recruited for its Maoist rival.

When President Fujimori took office in 1990, he threw the Government's internal security apparatus into an all-out war on both guerrilla movements. Human rights groups estimate that more than 1,200 rebels have been jailed on charges of subversion.

Under the "repentance laws", however, suspected guerrillas have been able to reduce their sentences by pointing the finger at their revolutionary comrades. As a result, many civilians have been jailed on flimsy evidence.

In 1992, the Peruvian Government chalked up two big counter-insurgency successes with the capture of Victor Polay Campos, the movement's leader, and Abimael Guzmán, the head of Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path), which concentrated its activi-

ties in rural areas. Tupac Amaru specialises in urban terror.

Even at its peak, however, it never had more than 1,000 fighters, compared to more than 10,000 recruited for its Maoist rival.

When President Fujimori took office in 1990, he threw the Government's internal security apparatus into an all-out war on both guerrilla movements. Human rights groups estimate that more than 1,200 rebels have been jailed on charges of subversion.

Under the "repentance laws", however, suspected guerrillas have been able to reduce their sentences by pointing the finger at their revolutionary comrades. As a result, many civilians have been jailed on flimsy evidence.

In 1992, the Peruvian Government chalked up two big counter-insurgency successes with the capture of Victor Polay Campos, the movement's leader, and Abimael Guzmán, the head of Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path), which concentrated its activi-

ties in rural areas. Tupac Amaru specialises in urban terror.

Even at its peak, however, it never had more than 1,000 fighters, compared to more than 10,000 recruited for its Maoist rival.

When President Fujimori took office in 1990, he threw the Government's internal security apparatus into an all-out war on both guerrilla movements. Human rights groups estimate that more than 1,200 rebels have been jailed on charges of subversion.

Under the "repentance laws", however, suspected guerrillas have been able to reduce their sentences by pointing the finger at their revolutionary comrades. As a result, many civilians have been jailed on flimsy evidence.

In 1992, the Peruvian Government chalked up two big counter-insurgency successes with the capture of Victor Polay Campos, the movement's leader, and Abimael Guzmán, the head of Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path), which concentrated its activi-

ties in rural areas. Tupac Amaru specialises in urban terror.

Even at its peak, however, it never had more than 1,000 fighters, compared to more than 10,000 recruited for its Maoist rival.

When President Fujimori took office in 1990, he threw the Government's internal security apparatus into an all-out war on both guerrilla movements. Human rights groups estimate that more than 1,200 rebels have been jailed on charges of subversion.

Under the "repentance laws", however, suspected guerrillas have been able to reduce their sentences by pointing the finger at their revolutionary comrades. As a result, many civilians have been jailed on flimsy evidence.

In 1992, the Peruvian Government chalked up two big counter-insurgency successes with the capture of Victor Polay Campos, the movement's leader, and Abimael Guzmán, the head of Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path), which concentrated its activi-

ties in rural areas. Tupac Amaru specialises in urban terror.

Even at its peak, however, it never had more than 1,000 fighters, compared to more than 10,000 recruited for its Maoist rival.

When President Fujimori took office in 1990, he threw the Government's internal security apparatus into an all-out war on both guerrilla movements. Human rights groups estimate that more than 1,200 rebels have been jailed on charges of subversion.

Under the "repentance laws", however, suspected guerrillas have been able to reduce their sentences by pointing the finger at their revolutionary comrades. As a result, many civilians have been jailed on flimsy evidence.

In 1992, the Peruvian Government chalked up two big counter-insurgency successes with the capture of Victor Polay Campos, the movement's leader, and Abimael Guzmán, the head of Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path), which concentrated its activi-

ties in rural areas. Tupac Amaru specialises in urban terror.

Even at its peak, however, it never had more than 1,000 fighters, compared to more than 10,000 recruited for its Maoist rival.

When President Fujimori took office in 1990, he threw the Government's internal security apparatus into an all-out war on both guerrilla movements. Human rights groups estimate that more than 1,200 rebels have been jailed on charges of subversion.

Under the "repentance laws", however, suspected guerrillas have been able to reduce their sentences by pointing the finger at their revolutionary comrades. As a result, many civilians have been jailed on flimsy evidence.

In 1992, the Peruvian Government chalked up two big counter-insurgency successes with the capture of Victor Polay Campos, the movement's leader, and Abimael Guzmán, the head of Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path), which concentrated its activi-

ties in rural areas. Tupac Amaru specialises in urban terror.

Even at its peak, however, it never had more than 1,000 fighters, compared to more than 10,000 recruited for its Maoist rival.

When President Fujimori took office in 1990, he threw the Government's internal security apparatus into an all-out war on both guerrilla movements. Human rights groups estimate that more than 1,200 rebels have been jailed on charges of subversion.

Under the "repentance laws", however, suspected guerrillas have been able to reduce their sentences by pointing the finger at their revolutionary comrades. As a result, many civilians have been jailed on flimsy evidence.

In 1992, the Peruvian Government chalked up two big counter-insurgency successes with the capture of Victor Polay Campos, the movement's leader, and Abimael Guzmán, the head of Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path), which concentrated its activi-

ties in rural areas. Tupac Amaru specialises in urban terror.

Even at its peak, however, it never had more than 1,000 fighters, compared to more than 10,000 recruited for its Maoist rival.

When President Fujimori took office in 1990, he threw the Government's internal security apparatus into an all-out war on both guerrilla movements. Human rights groups estimate that more than 1,200 rebels have been jailed on charges of subversion.

Under the "repentance laws", however, suspected guerrillas have been able to reduce their sentences by pointing the finger at their revolutionary comrades. As a result, many civilians have been jailed on flimsy evidence.

In 1992, the Peruvian Government chalked up two big counter-insurgency successes with the capture of Victor Polay Campos, the movement's leader, and Abimael Guzmán, the head of Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path), which concentrated its activi-

ties in rural areas. Tupac Amaru specialises in urban terror.

Even at its peak, however, it never had more than 1,000 fighters, compared to more than 10,000 recruited for its Maoist rival.

When President Fujimori took office in 1990, he threw the Government's internal security apparatus into an all-out war on both guerrilla movements. Human rights groups estimate that more than 1,200 rebels have been jailed on charges of subversion.

Under the "repentance laws", however, suspected guerrillas have been able to reduce their sentences by pointing the finger at their revolutionary comrades. As a result, many civilians have been jailed on flimsy evidence.

In 1992, the Peruvian Government chalked up two big counter-insurgency successes with the capture of Victor Polay Campos, the movement's leader, and Abimael Guzmán, the head of Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path), which concentrated its activi-

ties in rural areas. Tupac Amaru specialises in urban terror.

Even at its peak, however, it never had more than 1,000 fighters, compared to more than 10,000 recruited for its Maoist rival.

When President Fujimori took office in 1990, he threw the Government's internal security apparatus into an all-out war on both guerrilla movements. Human rights groups estimate that more than 1,200 rebels have been jailed on charges of subversion.

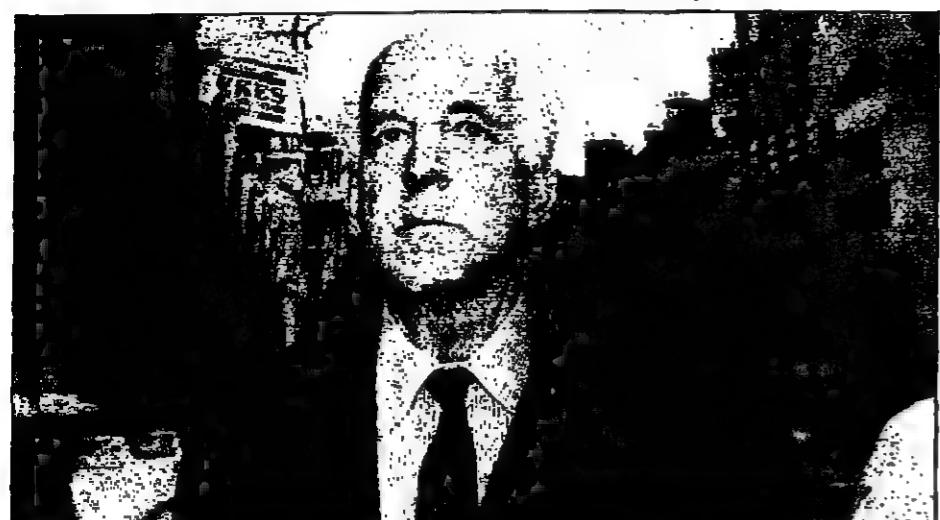
Under the "repentance laws", however, suspected guerrillas have been able to reduce their sentences by pointing the finger at their revolutionary comrades. As a result, many civilians have been jailed on flimsy evidence.

In 1992, the Peruvian Government chalked up two big counter-insurgency successes with the capture



Dr Thomas Stuttaford on the problems faced by doctors when diagnosing dementia in the elderly, chemotherapy treatment for cancer and hair loss, seasonal warnings over preparing food and drinking too much — and why a dose of mistletoe can be good for you

Why Saunders could not have been faking it



Ernest Saunders: he was suffering from dementia, but it was not Alzheimer's

Ernest Saunders's dealing in the City while in charge of Guinness may have made him a crook in the eyes of the world, but it would be beyond the ability of the most gifted and subtle actor to simulate dementia. Saunders was not a malingerer, it was his doctors who were at fault by making a very common diagnostic mistake.

The doctors mistook the dementia for the pseudo-dementia of the depressed, elderly melancholic. Saunders was demented, but not with Alzheimer's. It may well be that he is not as quick intellectually as in his heyday and when he is seen on television it is hard to believe that he ever had the acute brain he must once have employed.

The slowing of his cognitive facilities — medical speak for intellect — may well have accentuated the effect of the depression from which he was obviously suffering and which had been induced by the change of his circumstances from the boardroom to the dock, and then to prison.

Nobody recovers from Alzheimer's. It is a degenerative disease and the damage done to the brain is, at the moment, irreversible. Although any overlying depression

has lifted, Saunders will still be faced with the disadvantages of having a brain that has shrunk like many other 60-year-old brains.

Fortunately for him, he is enthusiastic, has great experience of the City, and is articulate enough still to make a very good living as a consultant and lecturer.

Saunders may have made his own doctors look foolish, but he has done medicine a great service: he has drawn attention to the dangers of labelling all senile dementia as Alzheimer's. The Saunders case has also shown that the amount of cerebral atrophy (brain shrinkage) which can be demonstrated and measured on an MRI scan in older people cannot be directly related to their loss of intellectual power.

It sounds almost unkind to now suggest that a patient has dementia, whereas to say that they are suffering from Alzheimer's makes the diagnosis socially acceptable to relatives, although it has terrifying consequences for the patients.

Unfortunately, as a result of accepting this new convention, there are many elderly people who are condemned to a lifetime of misery and institutional care who may well have needed only a course of pills to enable them to live at home and be a reasonably cheerful member of the family and community.

There are many different causes of dementia. Alzheimer's is frequently confused with multi-infarct dementia, in which a series of small strokes has destroyed enough of the brain to cause intellectual loss. The damage from each episode leaves the patient progressively less intelligent.

When depression is causing dementia, there are a few common clues: these patients tend to be more concerned by their memory loss than those with Alzheimer's; they have the sleep pattern of a depressive, their appetite is lost, their symptoms vary depending on the time of the day, and they are constipated. Above all, they improve when treated with anti-depressants.

THE tragic outbreak of E. coli 0157 in Lancashire, and the recently announced statistics of outbreaks of salmonella DT104, as well as the more common forms of this type of food poisoning, have come in time to remind everybody of the need to be careful when cooking the Christmas turkey and ham.

Uncooked meat should, whenever possible, be stored separately from prepared foods. But when — as in most households — there is only one refrigerator, the uncooked bird should be kept on the bottom shelf. This ensures that its bacteria-laden juices do not drip over the cheese and the remnants of yesterday's pudding.

Using the same kitchen sponges,

knives, forks and chopping boards for both cooked and uncooked meat is a sure way of spreading salmonella.

If the same knife is to be used to carve the joint as to cut the loaf, it must be thoroughly sterilized first. Kitchen surfaces are a regular haven of organisms, which gather and reproduce in the debris left lying in any crack.

Surfaces should be swabbed down regularly with a disinfectant. The greatest dangers in the kitchen are the dishcloth and tea-towel. Both are admirable media in which bacteria can grow. Dishwashers may spoil your wine glasses and spot-mark silver, but they do sterilize the crockery and cutlery.

Medicinal Sober facts of drink

THE only medical significance of mistletoe for most of us is the risk of catching herpes or glandular fever while kissing beneath it. Herbalists, however, have used mistletoe for centuries to treat high blood pressure and anxiety. But a potentially more important medical use has begun to be investigated.

Mistletoe, a toxic plant if swallowed accidentally, has been found to have cytotoxic activity — it interferes with cellular activity. This has led to the prescription of Iscador, the technical name for mistletoe extract, for a variety of malignant diseases. Iscador has been particularly favoured as a therapy by those doctors who are interested in alternative medicine. They welcome its apparent ability to inhibit the growth of malignant cells while also boosting the immune system.

At the British Cancer Centre some of the patients are treated with Iscador prepared from mistletoe grown on oak trees, others with Iscador grown from apples. Some cancers were considered people-sensitive, whereas the same sort of tumour in other patients needed the oak.

Changes in behaviour after alcohol are related to personality rather than to gender. Women tend to be less aggressive than men. Men who become abnormally aggressive when drinking are usually those who, when sober, are unusually tense.

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS



FREE CLASSE ROYALE LAGER 10 x 25CL PACK WITH EACH PURCHASE

OPEN APPLIES TO LITRE. NO FURTHER DISCOUNTS APPLY.
ALL OFFERS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY/ALTERATIONS TO DUTY OR VAT.

VICTORIA WINE

AVAILABLE UNTIL 6/1/97. BY LAW WE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO SELL ALCOHOL TO PERSONS AGED UNDER 18.





Ineptitude, duplicity and plot

Magnus Linklater expects more bad behaviour in the Commons

Over the next few weeks we had better get used to the prospect of MPs behaving badly. Monday's evidence of deceit and double-dealing over pairing arrangements in the recesses of the House of Commons may be just an early skirmish in the battle for survival that will mark the run-up to the general election. Gentlemanly rules will be cast aside as the whips on both sides play out their sinister role as counter-intelligence agents in a war where no one can be trusted and everyone is a potential enemy. Nothing brings out the feral instinct in our representatives more than the experience of minority government and the danger of sudden defeat.

I doubt if we should be too shocked. Yesterday I listened to John Prescott's fulminations about Tory malpractice, and feared he was heading for a seizure, so massive was his indignation. Yet what happened smacked more of ineptitude than of duplicity. The Government was always going to win Monday's vote, given the abstention of the Ulster Unionists, so double-pairing was not only foolish and counterproductive, it was unnecessary. The subterfuge was bound to be discovered, and the outcome simply means that all future pairing arrangements will be cancelled, to everybody's inconvenience. The most that can be read into the affair is the evidence it offers of incompetence in the Tory Whips' Office. Following the resignation of David Willetts, this inspires little confidence in the way the party conducts its parliamentary business. As for Labour's behaviour, I'm not sure it was much better. There is evidence that pairing deals were being cancelled at the last minute, to the annoyance of some Tories who thought they had the evening off. That is not how the system was meant to work.

At the same time, the outrage expressed by Labour MPs in Scotland over the way Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, commanded an RAF plane to get him down from Inverness for the vote (he was "on ministerial duty" is the official explanation) seems somewhat confected — a debating point rather than a serious question of principle. Should a minister on a government trip pay for his return journey if he is called back to vote? At what stage does he become a party man rather than a representative of the State? How many angels can dance on the head of a pin?

These charges are evidence of frayed nerves rather than the corruption of power that Mr Prescott hinted at. And they are nothing new. Lloyd George, describing how Liberal MPs were tramping through the lobbies at all hours to keep Ramsay MacDonald in Downing Street, inveighed against the Government's unprincipled tactics. "While Liberal members are voting for the Labour Government," he complained, "Labour candidates have been put up against them throughout

the constituencies, and Liberalism is being hunted, if possible, to death... When we support them, our support is received with sullen indifference. If we dare to criticise them, we are visited with a peevish resentment."

Who now remembers the fury directed against those two rebel Labour MPs, Desmond Donnelly and Woodrow Wyatt, in 1965 when they refused to be dragged into supporting the Government's Bill to renationalise steel? Temps flare, and men do strange things when a single vote is at stake. It was suspicion of a former breach of pairing etiquette that prompted Michael Heseltine, now so gravely

commenting on these matters, to raise the Commons mace above his head during a debate on the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Bill in 1976, so threatening the innocent white hairs of Michael Foot with fearsome damage. What goaded Mr Heseltine into frenzy was the rumour that a Labour MP, Tom Pendry, had broken his pairing arrangement at the instigation of the Government's Chief Whip. It turned out not to be true, but in that instant, Mr Heseltine's Tarzan image was formed. Sir

Julian Critchley, who was sitting behind him, remembers that it was the mild-mannered Jim (now Lord) Prior who leant forward and gently replaced the mace — the wrong way round.

There is, of course, a line to be drawn between cheating and arm-twisting, whatever form the latter may take. Sir David Steel, whose Liberal contingent helped maintain James Callaghan's Government in power for two years from the spring of 1977, would argue that the whips were entirely justified in keeping an independent Irish MP well supplied with Guinness in Annie's Bar so that he would cast his vote the right way in the final vote of confidence that brought down the Government.

Less acceptable is the absurd business of forcing sick MPs into the House rather than allowing them to be paired. Sir Julian, who now, alas, needs a wheelchair to move about, remembers sitting in the Commons car park behind the late Jo Richardson MP, who was actually wired up to a piece of medical equipment. She died shortly afterwards. He views with dismay the prospect of being called out to vote this winter on a three-line whip because of "the cruelty of the pairing system".

But it would be hard to argue that any of this seriously undermines the process of government. It is part of the sideshow of politics, mere entertainment for the rest of us. And it will give our MPs something to keep them busy in the dying days of an administration. Would we really swap it for what the Scottish Whig Sir James Mackintosh called "the wise and masterly inactivity" that was once the principal characteristic of a somnolent Commons?

I feel that I am doing disgracefully

Carte noire

HEAVY PADDING is in order for Lord Gowrie today, as he appears before Parliament's equivalent of the parish fete committee: its Gilbert and Sullivan fans. They are livid with him for what they suspect to be his and the Arts Council's condescending attitude towards giving grants to Britain's G&S companies, most notably the D'Oyly Carte, which is desperately short of cash.

Iam Sprout, the spreading Minister of State at the heritage department, has ordered Gowrie in for a pasting at the bidding of an *ad hoc* Commons group of Gilbert & Sullivan enthusiasts, including former Tory chairman Sir Norman Fowler, former Home Secretary Kenneth Baker, the Dames Knight and Fookes, and Peter Brooke, MP for Westminster. In between flicking pellets at Gowrie's lab-dah tastes, their aim is to secure the cultural credibility of G&S.

Anthony Steen, the MP for South Hams and leader of the group, says of Gowrie's mob: "I suspect the plain truth is that the Arts Council doesn't really approve of such frivolity and would rather we saw Wagner and left grimly contemplating the 12-tone scale."

Jungle drums

LABOUR'S determination to keep the shutters down around its shadowy Audience Participation Unit extends even to the families of its key members. Take Phil Royal, candidates' liaison officer, and a leading jungle musician.

For the uninitiated, jungle is an increasingly popular form of fast menacing dance music. Young Royal goes by the stage name of T-Power, has released two albums, and is probably best known for his track "Police State".

Royal Sr has gone to ground since the weekend's fiasco, and calls to him about his son's musical career are angrily dismissed by Labour. T-Power's media deflections, however, need more work. A male South London voice answered his telephone. I asked for Royal. "Yeah, I'll just get him. Who's asking?" "The Times." "Oh, there's no one by the name of Marc Royal here. No, no one I can think of by that name."



T-Power's record company was more decisively evasive. "T-Power's father doesn't work for Labour," they tell me. "His father is dead."

No fun

SENATOR Ted Kennedy's depressing slide into pensionable sobriety continues with news of a very tame performance at his office Christmas party. There were no blue jokes, he and his wife Vicki turned up as Dalradians and left early.

In previous years, the senator's office parties were raucous, pants-down affairs. He would show up in costumes ranging from Elvis to

All too steady, Teddy Bussell's performance of Cinderella

George Bush, complete with White House dog Millie. The best, however, was when he came dressed as Barney the dinosaur and insisted on being addressed as "Tyrannosaurus Rex".

Love lost

PARTY HELL down at the Banqueting House in Whitehall on Tuesday evening, as Diana, Princess of Wales, and Anna Pasternak, author of the heavy-breather *Princess in Love*, passed each other at the entrance to the *Sunday Times* Christmas party.

To attend the *Sunday Times* do, Diana had skipped the birthday party for Dominic Lawson, Editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, whose wife Rosa Monckton is a friend of hers. But as she left, she must have wished she hadn't. She found herself facing Pasternak, who takes up the story in her own gamay style: "I was coming in and she was leaving. We had very penetrating eye contact. This wasn't the first time I'd seen her though. We were once in neighbouring basins at Daniel Galvin's hairdressers. She didn't know it but I had the proof of *Princess in Love* in the bag at my feet."

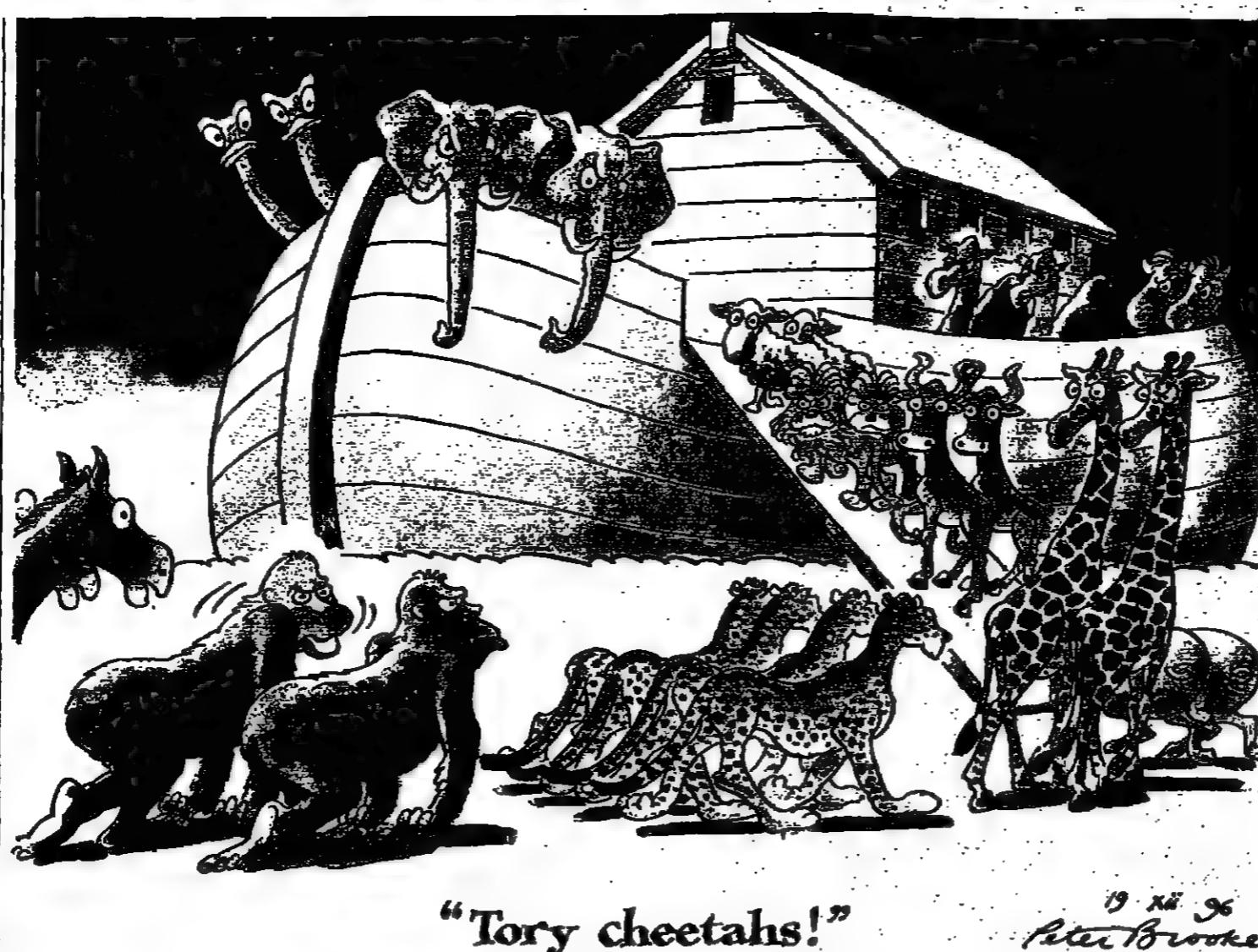
As a young Indian once told me, nobody likes the Government in Lima. Nobody supports the terrorists either. But some people understand them. Nobody in Peru will be supporting Tupac Amaru. But, up in the Andes and down in the slums of Lima, there will be some who understand.



Bussell: graceful

At the Royal Opera House on Tuesday. Just as she placed her foot on a low stool to try on Prince Charming's glass slipper, one of its legs snapped. Jeremy Isaacs, general director of the Opera House, frowned from his seat. Gallantly the prince slipped his hand underneath to steady the stool, and Bussell was saved.

P-H-S



Notes on Europe's past

If Shakespeare and Mozart are not correct enough for the euro, who is?

I keep a small bundle of foreign banknotes in an old wallet. In theory I clip them when I revisit their country of origin; in practice they stay for years at a time in the drawer of my bedside table. My German notes are relatively up to date; they were issued in Frankfurt on August 1, 1991, so presumably they are still legal tender. They do however make me ashamed of my ignorance of German cultural history. The 100 DM note has a portrait of Clara Schumann, 1819-96. I know that I once read an article, or perhaps a programme note, about her. I take it that she was married to the composer, and started life as Clara something else, but I am not even sure of that. I have a strong feeling that she was herself a musician, a singer perhaps or a pianist. I have a less strong suspicion that she was at some point, apart from being Schumann's wife, that is correct; some other composer's mistress, perhaps Liszt. I may be libelling the memory of a chaste wife and mother. As she was famous enough to appear on the front of a high denomination note, I plainly ought to know more about her.

Even now, or once knew, what a "Gauss" is. It is "the unit of intensity of a magnetic field, whose measurement is the product of a Weber at the distance of one centimetre". As I have not the least idea what a Weber is, that definition is of little use to me, but you may take it as correct because I looked it up in 1989 and am now repeating what I then wrote. As an infant prodigy, Gauss taught himself to calculate before he could talk. At the age of three he corrected an error in his father's wage calculations. When he entered the Brunswick Collegium Carolinum at the age of 15, he had already independently discovered Bode's law of planetary distances, the binomial theorem and the arithmetic-geometric mean.

Gauss made a comment on one of his seven proofs of the law of quadratic reciprocity which illuminates for the non-scientist the aesthetic element in scientific discovery. "It is characteristic of higher arithmetic that many of its most beautiful theorems can be discovered by induction with the greatest of ease, but have proofs that lie anywhere but near at hand... It is just the insight into the wonderful concatenation of truth in higher arithmetic that is the chief attraction for study and often leads to the discovery of new truths."

I am sure the Bundesbank must have put Goethe and Bach on notes of some denomination at some time. I suppose that Luther, who was the real master of Germany, would not have wished, as a man of religion, to have his face printed on paper

badly, with one faint recollection and two absolute misses. I come into my own only with the 10 DM note, and the agreeable, if somewhat gnome-like, features of Carl Friedrich Gauss, 1777-1855. I ought in principle to be better placed with German pianists, architects and writers than with mathematicians, but Gauss fascinates me, not so much for his mathematics, which I do not understand, but for being an infant prodigy who became an adult prodigy. He is well worth his place on a banknote.

The euro committee's first difficulty was that there are more EU countries than denominations of euro notes: 15 countries and only seven denominations. If there had been more denominations, one could have had Hans Christian Andersen for Denmark, Sibelius for Finland and Tintin for Belgium without causing offence to anyone else. If there were still only seven countries, as there once were, they could simply have chosen the greatest cultural figures for each country. Goethe for Germany, perhaps Voltaire for France — he is, after all, the most quintessentially French of all Frenchmen — Shakespeare for Britain, Dante, Leonardo da Vinci or Michelangelo for Italy, and suitable local members of the historic European cultural establishment for Belgium and Luxembourg. Mozart would have been out, as Austria was not then a member of the EEC.

It would never have been possible to choose political portraits. The political masters of Europe were a murderous bunch of thugs. Time has dimmed the horrors of the Norman Conquest, but William the Conqueror would not have been chosen for Anglo-Saxon banknotes. Julius Caesar massacred Gauls by the hundred thousand as part of his mission to spread Roman civilisation; Charlemagne killed his tens of thousands; Napoleon and Hitler killed by the million, though Napoleon was not then a member of the EEC.

It would never have been possible to choose political portraits. The political masters of Europe were a

murderous bunch of thugs. Time has dimmed the horrors of the Norman Conquest, but William the Conqueror would not have been chosen for Anglo-Saxon banknotes. Julius Caesar massacred Gauls by the hundred thousand as part of his mission to spread Roman civilisation; Charlemagne killed his tens of thousands; Napoleon and Hitler killed by the million, though Napoleon was not then a member of the EEC.

They have certainly been ideologies much wickeder and more dangerous than the authoritarian feminist liberalism of political correctness.

We would all rather live under

rule than that of the Nazis, the Communists or any other aggressive totalitarian party. But silliness matters, and silliness matters too. A correctness that rejects Mozart as unsuitable for a banknote because he wrote

The Magic Flute goes too far.

Perhaps the euro ought to have only

one portrait on all denominations,

that of Arnette von Droste-Hulshoff herself. She may have been a

great German writer, but she

looks the perfect symbol of the

priggish interventionism that is taking

over European culture and, to

have already taken over American.

From my own travels in Peru I have the strongest hunch that

the problems are not ideological but ethnic. The ethnic divide in the nations that straddle the Andes from Ecuador to Chile is one of the best-kept secrets in modern history. Because the inferior status of the South American Indians has never required the backing of law, nobody speaks of apartheid. The mistake the South African whites made was to write it down. The ruling class in Peru are whites too, but we forget that they are not the only inhabitants.

Only Latin South Americans can afford to visit Europe in any number, and it is their culture we tend to see when we fly in to the major cities and towns of the Andes and Pacific coast. The millions of Indian Peruvians, Ecuadorian and Bolivian citizens are almost invisible to international view. Their economic status is inferior, and in Lima you will see almost no full-blooded Indians in any but subservient occupations — or unemployed and encamped, ankle-deep in urine and litter, in the graffiti-daubed waste of corrugated iron and makeshift houses spreading out around the old city. In the countryside, almost everyone is of Indian blood.

Unlike the Red Indians in North America or the Aborigines in Australia, the descendants of the Inca Empire may have been subjugated, but they have not been marginalised, and their culture has lost none of its vigour. Recent Peruvian Governments have made some attempt to emancipate and involve them, but the task is huge.

Agriculture, on which most of these *campesinos* rely, has not kept up with industrial and commercial Peru. Neither the Sendero nor Tupac Amaru has ever enjoyed mass support among the *campesinos* — that must be emphasised — but like the IRA in apparently peace-loving Catholic Ireland, they are able to find shelter.

As a young Indian once told me, nobody likes the Government in Lima. Nobody supports the terrorists either. But some people understand them. Nobody in Peru will be supporting Tupac Amaru. But, up in the Andes and down in the slums of Lima, there will be some who understand.

Revenge of the Incas

Matthew Parris
on Peru's apartheid
and Indian terror

The ferocity and grotesqueness of Peruvian terrorism are legendary in South America: so much so that it becomes difficult to separate fact from fiction. More notorious than Tupac Amaru, until now, has been the *Sendero Luminoso* (Shining Path), with its weird amalgam of peasant grievances and Maoist ideology. Now *Sendero*, one of the last communist revolutionary movements in the world, will become muddled, in Western minds, with Tupac Amaru, whose aims and structure are even more obscure.

Legend abounds. It is widely believed in South America that one of *Sendero*'s methods has included stuffing live chickens with explosive and sending them into markets, to be detonated by a timing device. In one fanciful version, a child was used as a human bomb, sent into the lobby of the Lima Hilton.

It is certainly true that the terrorists' methods have been cruel — deprived of ammunition, they have beaten villagers to death with rocks — but the overwhelming majority of their victims have been the rural peasantry and the security forces. Foreigners and tourists have only occasionally been the target. The terrorists' first aim has been to win over villages and regions to their cause. Communities loyal to the Government were "punished", sometimes *en bloc*. Government forces used to respond by "punishing" communities that sheltered the terrorists. As so often in South America, the little people have suffered at the hands of both sides. These are the descendants of the Inca Empire, which Spain utterly humiliated from the 16th century on. Some Latin Peruvians, and Indians too, see such movements as *Sendero* and Tupac Amaru as the Incas' revenge.

President Alberto Fujimori's Government has had considerable apparent success against the *Sendero*, whose leader has been captured and imprisoned. At some cost to the fragile welfare on which the poorest have relied, the Peruvian economy has been Thatcherised and invigorated. Tourists have been returning to Machu-Picchu and Cuzco. The province of Ayacucho, at one time almost a no-go area for government forces, has been returning to normal.

Nicholas Shakespeare, the son of a former British Ambassador in Lima, travelled in Ayacucho at its lowest ebb, and wrote extensively on Peruvian Indian terrorism. Tall and fair, he found himself feared as a suspect *Pistazo*, an alien spirit of whom the more remote Indian people live in mortal terror. According to folklore, *Pistazos* come from another world. To survive and breed, they require a special oil which can only be derived from the crushed bodies of Indian people, which they come to the Andes to obtain. Shakespeare speculates that the roots of this folk wisdom may lie in some terrible tangle between native lore and stories about the arrival of the Spanish conquistadores, followed by mineral prospectors and speculators, in whose mines millions of Indians died.

From my own travels in Peru I have the strongest hunch that the problems are not ideological but ethnic. The ethnic divide in the nations that straddle the Andes from Ecuador to Chile is one of the best-kept secrets in modern history. Because the inferior status of the South American Indians has never required the backing of law, nobody speaks of apartheid. The mistake the South African whites made was to write it down. The ruling class in Peru are whites too, but we forget that they are not the only inhabitants.

Only Latin South Americans can afford to visit Europe in any number, and it is their culture we tend to see when we fly in to the major cities and towns of the Andes and Pacific coast. The millions of Indian Peruvians, Ecuadorian and Bolivian citizens are almost invisible to international view. Their economic status is inferior, and in Lima you will see almost no full-blooded Indians in any but subservient occupations — or unemployed and encamped, ankle-deep in urine and litter, in the graffiti-daubed waste of corrugated iron and makeshift houses spreading out around the old city. In the countryside, almost everyone is of Indian blood.

Unlike the Red Indians in North America or the Aborigines in Australia, the descendants of the Inca Empire may have been subjugated, but they have not been marginalised, and their culture has lost none of its vigour. Recent Peruvian Governments have made some attempt to emancipate and involve them, but the task is huge.

Agriculture, on which most of these *campesinos* rely, has not kept up with industrial and commercial Peru. Neither the *Sendero* nor Tupac Amaru has ever enjoyed mass support among the *campesinos* — that must be emphasised — but like the IRA in apparently peace-loving Catholic Ireland, they are able to find shelter. As a young Indian once told me, nobody likes the Government in Lima. Nobody supports the terrorists either. But some people understand them. Nobody in Peru will be supporting Tupac Amaru. But,



GOLDEN ECONOMY

The best Tory message: don't let Labour destroy it

If only politics were as predictable as economics. Nobody who has been closely following developments in the British economy in the past few years should have been surprised by yesterday's vintage crop of statistics on jobs, wages and retail sales. Yet the Government, which has long counted on prosperity and economic confidence to save it from electoral perdition, is plumbing new depths of unpopularity. Why?

First, there is the possibility that people do not yet feel the prosperity which the figures increasingly reveal, or alternatively that voters believe the recovery is somehow unsound or unsustainable. Pollsters find many people saying that Britain is still in recession. Wait just a few more months, say the optimists, and rising incomes will percolate into people's pockets; the political landscape will then be transformed.

The flaw in this argument is that people are already starting to believe that this recovery is real. Consumer confidence is back towards the levels last seen in the prosperous late 1980s. House prices and, more importantly, housing transactions are rising. Unemployment is dropping in voters' perceptions of the most critical issues facing the country. Why should voters react any differently to good economic news in the next four months?

The rise in consumer confidence has been matched by improvements in business and financial confidence — so much so that the biggest economic problem facing the Treasury and the Bank of England at present is the excessive strength of the pound. There are always good reasons to worry about economic recovery being blown off course by inflation, low investment or trade imbalances. At present, however, there is less reason for such concern than usual, partly because of the structural transformation of the British economy during the Thatcher years. This is not just the view of the business community. The improvement in Britain's economic structure is admitted even by many politicians on the centre-left.

ANNAN OF THE UN

After a risible selection process, a rising agenda

Following a squalid set of political machinations, the United Nations finally has a new Secretary-General, Kofi Annan. First, Boutros Ghali reneged on his pledge to serve only five years in office and had to be removed by an American veto. Then, Washington, and the other four permanent members of the Security Council, accepted the absurd argument that his successor could only be an African. Finally, Jacques Chirac threw in a French language proficiency test for good measure. It is a marvel that any candidate emerged at all.

Allowing for the extraordinarily small pool of talent from which the UN permitted itself to pick, Mr Annan is a respectable if uninspiring choice. As Under-Secretary-General for peacekeeping operations, he has acquired a reputation for quiet competence. In a relaxed press conference yesterday he made clear that he wanted to do more than his predecessor to streamline bureaucracy and win the confidence of member states. He already has the confidence of the United States. A more dynamic figure such as Sadako Ogata, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, would have been welcome; but it seems that capacity to excel in this post never entered the job specification. In the future such a farce would be less likely if the Secretary-General served just one non-renewable seven-year term.

Mr Annan faces a vast agenda. His first task is to prevent the UN's already chronic financial position slipping into outright bankruptcy. In the very short term this means clearing the backlog of dues, over \$2 billion strong, owed by members. More than half of this total involves the United States. Beyond that, an entirely new system of subscriptions that recognises the present

Another possible explanation for the gap between politics and economics is the Government's failure to take credit for managing the economy in a reasonably competent way. John Major became Chancellor as a deep recession was starting and he made matters much worse by joining the ERM. His image has been identified with the hair shirt ever since. In the four years of steady recovery that have followed Britain's exit from the ERM, Mr Major could have wrought for himself and his Government a new, more optimistic image, better suited for a period of economic growth. He failed to do this, partly because of the distracting disunity in his party and partly perhaps because it took him so long to recognise the collapse of his policies on Black Wednesday as a deliverance not a disaster. It is still hard, however, to believe that, after four years, the debacle of Black Wednesday remains dominant in voters' minds.

What, then, is left to console Mr Major and the Tories? Only perhaps the great bugbear of ruling politicians through the ages. When a disaster strikes the country, people are inclined to blame the Government. But once a great issue begins to seem less troubling, the people do not thank the Government instead the issue, in this case unemployment, simply begins to slip from voters' minds. This is one reason why Churchill lost the post-war election and perhaps why Labour Governments have usually been elected during periods of optimism and prosperity rather than in the depth of economic slumps. To win the election, it will not be enough for the Tories to say that Britain is doing well and that Mr Major deserves at least some of the credit. They will also have to persuade the public that prosperity is too precious and fragile to allow it to be put into Labour's untried hands. In this sense at least, the Tories will inevitably and understandably be drawn into a negative campaign, designed to spread fear about the economic horrors Labour might perpetrate.

Flaws in plan for bad drivers to pay

From Mr Michael Gould

Sir, Your report, "Drivers should pay bill for crash victims" (December 12), explains how the Law Commission proposes that negligent drivers should be singled out to pay for their victims' treatment by the National Health Service.

The illogicality of this proposal is twofold. First, why should only the NHS be allowed to recoup costs incurred as a result of an accident? Why should not the fire services and police be allowed to charge for their involvement? Indeed, why should not other road users suffering delay and inconvenience be allowed to charge for their losses?

Second, why should motorists be singled out? No one intends to be negligent. The negligent motorist is no more blameworthy than the person who requires treatment after falling down his own stairs.

In my view the logical extension of the Law Commission's proposal is that the National Health Service be privatised. Such a policy may be perfectly acceptable to the present Government but would be a strange policy for the Law Commission to pursue.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL GOULD
(Senior lecturer), Law School,
Staffordshire University,
Leek Road,
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire.
December 13.

From Mr John C. Banks

Sir, It is proposed that the NHS be able to claim an estimated £120 million per year in compensation from those who cause road traffic accidents, of which £20 million to £30 million would be swallowed up in costs of administering the system.

Of course the money would actually be recovered from the insurers and it is reasonable to assume that they would incur similar costs. These costs would, in turn, be recovered through increased premiums, paid not only by the guilty but by all of us.

Thus the NHS would be enriched by about £100 million at a cost to the motorists of about £150 million, paid out of taxed income. By my estimation, this represents about £200 million of untaxed income.

As an alternative we could give the NHS the £100 million with no additional administration cost, financed out of general taxation, and therefore paid by all taxpayers out of their taxed income. Nearly all motorists are taxpayers and relatively few taxpayers are non-motorists.

The proposed scheme is an unbelievably inefficient way of funding the NHS, but a wonderful way of funding administrators and the legal profession.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. BANKS,
23 Dovedale Road,
West Bridgford, Nottingham.
December 12.

From Mrs Jane Hodges

Sir, As well as having drivers pay for the injuries sustained by road accident victims, what about making those suffering from self-inflicted ones pay too? I would include among these smokers and abusers of drugs or alcohol.

Yours faithfully,
JANE HODGES,
18 Gloucester Road,
Walsall, West Midlands.
December 14.

From Mr John Lomas

Sir, You carried the report about transferring the cost of traffic accident injuries from the NHS to the insurers on the same day as a report on the major traffic jam caused in London by a lorry colliding with a gantry at the entrance to the Blackwall Tunnel.

Is there not a case for the haulage companies to pay for delays caused by this sort of incident?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LOMAS,
Spratt House, Chapel Lane,
Newborough, Staffordshire.
December 13.

Straw poll

From Mr Charles Bowerman

Sir, I was intrigued to read Mr John Cryer's letter (December 11) on irresponsible drivers of farm vehicles. I have just taken a tractor (with visible number plates) to our local dealer for a service. Naturally I pulled over whenever possible to let following traffic past, and was interested to note that of 44 vehicles only 16 drivers saw fit to acknowledge my action, represented thus the one motorcycle eight out of nine lorries; not one of the three white vans; and only seven of the 31

is the ability to show common courtesy part of the HGV and motorcycle licence tests, or is it simply that many car and van drivers pay so little attention to other road users that they were simply unaware of my actions?

Yours faithfully,
C. H. BOWERMAN,
6 Swan Cottages, Pewsey, Wiltshire.
December 12.

With the postal delays that often occur at this time of year, it is useful, where possible, for letters to be faxed to 0171-782 5046. Please give contact telephone numbers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Treachery' of the Duke of Windsor

From Mr Philip Ziegler

Sir, Mr Michael Ryan's letter of December 9 [see also article, December 4, 10], accepting as established truth the wilder assertions of stray German functionaries, confirms his determination to put the blackest possible interpretation on anything the unfortunate Duke of Windsor said or did.

To take, for instance, the Duke's alleged betrayal of Allied battle plans to the Germans in the winter of 1940; this rests on the unsubstantiated gossip of Count Zech, German Minister to The Netherlands, who cited the Duke as the source of information about Allied troop movements in the event of a German invasion of Belgium. Zech gave no indication of how he came by this intelligence, nor to whom the Duke might have been talking.

The "information" which the Duke was supposed to have provided was in fact the direct opposite of what he must have known to have been the truth. From this one might deduce that the Duke was taking part in a cunning deception operation. More plausibly, one might dismiss the whole story as a mare's nest. I do not see how it can be read as proving that he was a traitor.

Not did the Duke express "pro-Hitler sentiments" to the American journalist, Fulton Oursler; he argued that Britain could not win the war and that a "Pax Americana" was the best hope for humanity. Though his attitude was defeatist and, as it turned out, misguided, it was not treasonable.

The new releases from the Public Record Office do not confirm in "extraordinary" or any other detail the allegations as to the Duke's treachery made in Mr Ryan's lamentable Chapter 4 programme. I am sorry to dis-

missed. I delivered the proof by taxi.

Yours etc,

JOHN W. HEREN,
Rowan Garth, Saint Ives Road,
Somersham, Cambridgeshire.

From Mr John W. Heren

Sir, The proof of *The Times* leader of December 3, 1936, was delivered by me to No 10 Downing Street at 10.30pm on the previous evening. In my presence, Mr Stanley Baldwin penned some marginal comments and the proof was returned to Printing House Square by 11.15pm. The presses

rolled at 11.45pm.

I delivered the proof by taxi.

Yours etc,

JOHN W. HEREN,
Rowan Garth, Saint Ives Road,
Somersham, Cambridgeshire.

From Mr John W. Heren

Sir, The House of Lords agrees with Mr Graham Allen, MP, that employers should take more positive action against workplace bullying [letter, December 9].

First, the judgement is a timely and salutary reminder that continental European institutions can often make a worthwhile contribution to maintaining and enhancing our own national values.

Secondly, our citizens still have to take their claims under the European Convention to the Court in Strasbourg. Why? Because successive governments have persistently declined to incorporate the Convention directly into our own law. So our own judges are powerless to rule on it.

The time has surely at last come when we should patrize what is now *de facto* our most important constitutional document and trust our own judges to apply it.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT ALEXANDER,
Chairman of Council,
Justice,
59 Carter Lane, EC4.
December 18.

Human rights court

From Lord Alexander of Weedon,
QC, Chairman of Justice

Sir, Your excellent leading article today on the Saunders judgment in the European Court of Human Rights prompts two further thoughts.

First, the judgement is a timely and salutary reminder that continental European institutions can often make a worthwhile contribution to maintaining and enhancing our own national values.

Secondly, our citizens still have to take their claims under the European Convention to the Court in Strasbourg. Why? Because successive governments have persistently declined to incorporate the Convention directly into our own law. So our own judges are powerless to rule on it.

The time has surely at last come when we should patrize what is now *de facto* our most important constitutional document and trust our own judges to apply it.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT ALEXANDER,
Chairman, Campaign Against
Bullying At Work,
House of Lords.
December 9.

Workplace bullying

From Lord Monkswell

Sir, The House of Lords agrees with Mr Graham Allen, MP, that employers should take more positive action against workplace bullying [letter, December 9].

Last week they gave an unopposed second reading to my Dignity at Work Bill. The aim of the Bill is to prevent bullying at work by requiring employers to develop anti-bullying policies and practices through discussion with their employees. If bullying does occur, employers would have to take effective action to resolve the problem or liable to pay compensation to the victim.

Bullying at work is bad for victims, bad for business and bad for society. It costs us all money in lost productivity, extra unemployment benefit and costs to the NHS, apart from the price victims pay. I hope everyone will agree that action is needed to reduce the burden bullies at work place on us all.

Yours faithfully,
MONKSWELL,
(Chairman, Campaign Against
Bullying At Work),
House of Lords.
December 9.

From Mr Derek Hudson

Sir, Arthur Rackham's drawing of Rat and Mole which you reproduced to accompany your report (December 9) on the near extinction of the water-vole was the last drawing he ever made. He was very ill with cancer in 1939 and had great difficulty in completing his illustrations for *The Wind in the Willows*, which meant much to him.

Having finished the drawing with difficulty Rackham discovered there were no cars in the boat and, though his daughter tried to persuade him that it didn't matter, he insisted on putting them in. Then he lay back exhausted and said: "Thank goodness, that is the last one". And so it proved, in every sense.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK HUDSON,
7 Churchill Road, Guildford, Surrey.

Young as you feel

From Mr Donald Cross

Sir, Feeling reasonably spry until a few moments ago, I have just read about the tragic death of a 62-year-old man (News in brief, later editions, December 17). In June I celebrated my 71st birthday. It was a terrible shock, seeing your report, to realise that I have been "elderly" for little short of an entire decade.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD CROSS,
9 Furze Croft,
Furze Hill, Hove, East Sussex.
December 17.

Mind over matter

From Dr Jonathan Olney

Sir, It was with great sadness that I learned of the death of Dr Harold Edwards (Obituary, December 13).

He was an extremely popular Dean at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, and superbly good at demonstrating clinical signs to a large student audience with exactly the right degree of showmanship that neurologists are supposed to have.

I will always remember the occasion when a student left his motorcycle in Dr Edwards's parking space, the only named space in the medical school garage. The Dean simply drove his Rolls-Royce motor car over the offending vehicle. This was widely accepted as the only possible course of action.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN OLNEY
(Consultant neuroradiologist),
Old Mill House,
Cowfold Road, Bolney, Sussex.

Head gear

From Mrs Nicolas Chisholm

Sir, My husband's Christmas present this year from his pupils was a yellow hard hat "for fortitude".

Could this be a modern replacement for the mortar board and would Mrs Gillian Shephard approve?

Yours sincerely,
AURIOL CHISHOLM,
The Headmaster's House,
The Yehudi Menuhin School,
Stoke d'Abernon,
Cobham, Surrey.
December 16.

NEWS

Embassy rebels threaten hostages

Guerrillas who took nearly 500 diplomats, politicians, business leaders and other top officials hostage at a glittering embassy reception in Lima threatened last night to start shooting their captives one by one.

The leftist rebels got in to the Japanese ambassador's residence disguised as waiters and let off explosives and fired automatic weapons. One of the 23 rebels was wounded and 170 of the captives were released.

Pages 1, 13

Duke says gun clubs no worse than golf

The Duke of Edinburgh suggested that members of shooting clubs were no more dangerous than members of golf or squash clubs. He implied that the new legislation to ban certain handguns would be ineffective because it would not prevent weapons getting into the hands of criminals.

Page 1

Paedophile register

Paedophiles and other sex offenders will have to register their addresses with the police for between five years and a lifetime under new plans.

Page 1

Unemployment fall

The largest fall in unemployment since present records began took the number of jobless down to below two million for the first time in almost six years, boosting Government hopes of the economy's strengthening.

Page 1

Currency assurance

Kenneth Clarke will today almost certainly receive final Cabinet agreement that the Government's wait-and-see policy on the single currency cannot be changed before the General Election.

Page 2

Imperfect murder

Russell Causley, a fraudster who claimed to have committed the perfect murder when he dissolved his wife's body in acid, was jailed for life.

Page 3

Anti-abortion party

Mohamed Al Fayed has promised substantial financial backing for a new anti-abortion party which hopes to field 50 candidates at the general election.

Page 4

Hero remembered

A coroner paid tribute to a Battle of Britain fighter pilot and contrasted him with highly paid footballers and other false heroes of the 1990s.

Page 5

Clinton blow

Charles Trie, an Asian conduit for suspect donations to the Clintons, brought further humiliation to the White House when it emerged that he had maintained close ties long after aides had questioned his probity.

Page 11

Runaway Blair owns up

The best kept secret of Tony Blair's schooldays was revealed when he confessed on television that he sneaked on to a plane destined for the Bahamas at the age of 14 to escape the horrors of public school. Mr Blair said "the craziest thing" he had ever done happened after his parents put him on a train in Newcastle to return to Fettes School in Edinburgh.

Page 1



The Duke of York, colonel-in-chief of the 1st Battalion, Staffordshire Regiment, with his men during a two-day visit to Hong Kong yesterday

BUSINESS

Electricity: Only two out of the original twelve regional companies will remain independent or without a bid after London Electricity yesterday agreed to be taken over by Entergy of New Orleans. Page 21

Jobless: The biggest monthly fall in unemployment since present records began took the seasonally adjusted number of jobless below 2 million for the first time in six years. Page 21

Building societies: The Woolwich pledged to fight to amend the new Building Societies Bill that was published yesterday. Page 21

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 38.6 to 1948.2. Sterling rose from \$1.6718 to \$1.6725 and from DM2.5841 to DM2.5999. Page 24

Cricket: Excellent bowling by Robert Croft kept England in contention on the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe, who reached 256 for six. Page 20

Sailing: A second yacht in the BT Global Challenge has suffered a failure to her forestay, raising concerns that the fault may be replicated on other boats. Page 40

Equestrianism: Paul Darragh, of Ireland, made a rousing start to the Olympia Show when he and the eight-year-old, Scandal, won the Christmas Candle Stake by 1.82sec. Page 37

Racing: Bellator, the ante-post favourite for the Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham next March, has been ruled out for the season by a stress fracture of the leg. Page 25

New film: With frenetic action, an unrelenting soundtrack and no time to develop relationships between the characters, *Evil* is all lung and no heart. Page 29

New releases: On video, Eddie Murphy finds a darkly comic vehicle in *Wes Craven's Vampire in Brooklyn*; while on CD, Felicity Lott goes all French and frothy on a new recording of *Offenbach*. Page 30

Rival Nutcrackers: London is being treated to two rival versions of *The Nutcracker*, one by English National Ballet and the other by the Kirov from St Petersburg. Page 31

Solo singer: Galina Gorochakova gives an entirely Russian programme in her recital but the strain of fatigue is evident. Page 31

Growing back: Dr Thomas Stubbard on the mystery of hair loss and how hair can return. Page 14

Mistletoe: may contain medicinal benefits. Page 14

Top city: Which is the trendiest city and the best for dining out? New York or London? Irwin Stelter rates restaurants in the two by variety, price, and service. Page 15

Matthew Parris

Reviews: Karen Armstrong on a history of Christianity; Philip Howard on the Penguin edition of *Euripides*; Roger Scruton on hunting; Jonathan Clark on the Prime Minister who lost America. Page 32, 33

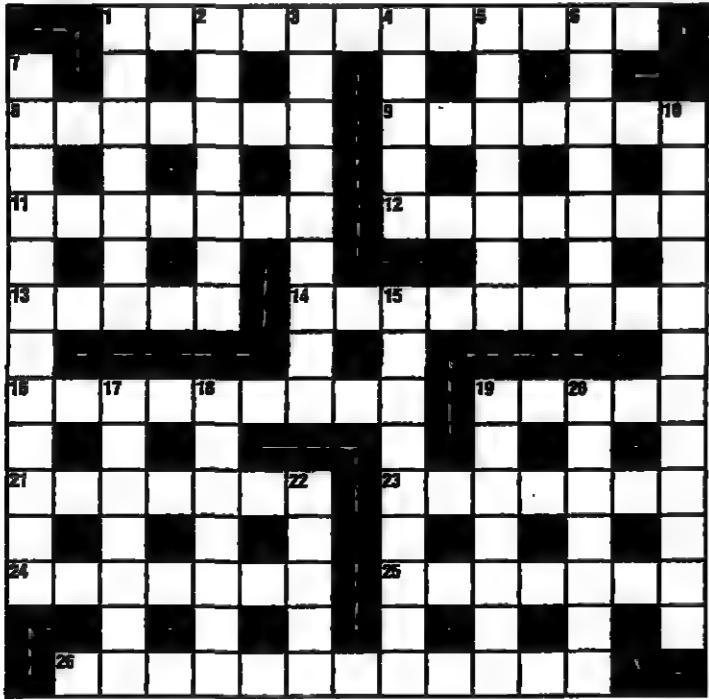
JOHN BRYANT

It is always sad to witness the extinction of a species. Within living memory the sporting landscape of Britain was well-stocked with a breed that is rarely glimpsed today — the Great All-Rounder. Page 33

Joe Corral, bookmaker; Michael Saunders, Treasury Solicitor; Irving Caesar, lyricist. Page 19

Saunders: car crash costs; Duke of Windsor "treachery"; anaesthetics; bullying at work. Page 17

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,355



Latest Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather - All regions 0336 444 910
UK Roads - All regions 0336 401 610

Inside 021
PE2 and Link Roads 0326 401 746

PE3 and PE4 Motorways 0326 401 747

Continental Europe 0326 401 510

Channel crossing 0326 401 588

Motorway to Heathrow & Gatwick airports 0326 407 805

The Met Office

Did 0236 followed by area number from your dial

West Country 416 226
Wales 416 235
Midlands 416 236
North Anglia 416 237
North West 416 238
National Seismic 416 239
N. East 416 239

Heathrow: Practice before letters forecasts 416 296

World City Weather 0326 411 216

153 international world wide 4 day forecasts

by Phone dial 0336 411 216

by Fax (index page) 0326 416 233

Monitoring

Europe Country by Country 0326 401 885

European flight costs 0326 401 886

French Motorways 0326 401 887

German Motorways 0326 401 888

French Paris 0326 401 899

Le Shuttle 0326 401 895

AA Car reports by fax

new and used car reports from the AA area of 195 cars 0326 416 399

Did 0236 followed by area number from your dial

West Country 416 226
Wales 416 235
Midlands 416 236
North Anglia 416 237
North West 416 238

AA Developments Ltd, 260 Newgate St, London EC1A 7AA

AA Weatherline 0326 401 897

AA Weatherline 0326 401 898

AA Weatherline 0326 401 899

AA Weatherline 0326 401 895

AA Weatherline 0326 401 896

AA Weatherline 0326 401 897

AA Weatherline 0326 401 898

AA Weatherline 0326 401 899

AA Weatherline 0326 401 896

AA Weatherline 0326 401 897

AA Weatherline 0326 401 898

AA Weatherline 0326 401 899

AA Weatherline 0326 401 896

AA Weatherline 0326 401 897

AA Weatherline 0326 401 898

AA Weatherline 0326 401 899

AA Weatherline 0326 401 896

AA Weatherline 0326 401 897

AA Weatherline 0326 401 898

AA Weatherline 0326 401 899

AA Weatherline 0326 401 896

AA Weatherline 0326 401 897

AA Weatherline 0326 401 898

AA Weatherline 0326 401 899

AA Weatherline 0326 401 896

AA Weatherline 0326 401 897

AA Weatherline 0326 401 898

AA Weatherline 0326 401 899

AA Weatherline 0326 401 896

AA Weatherline 0326 401 897

AA Weatherline 0326 401 898

AA Weatherline 0326 401 899

AA Weatherline 0326 401 896

AA Weatherline 0326 401 897

AA Weatherline 0326 401 898

AA Weatherline 0326 401 899

AA Weatherline 0326 401 896

AA Weatherline 0326 401 897

AA Weatherline 0326 401 898

AA Weatherline 0326 401 899

AA Weatherline 0326 401 896

AA Weatherline 0326 401 897

AA Weatherline 0326 401 898

AA Weatherline 0326 401 899

AA Weatherline 0326 401 896

AA Weatherline 0326 401 897

AA Weatherline 0326 401 898

AA Weatherline 0326 401 899

AA Weatherline 0326 401 896

AA Weatherline 0326 401 897

AA Weatherline 0326 401 898

AA Weatherline 0326 401 899

AA Weatherline 0326 401 896

AA Weatherline 0326 401 897

AA Weatherline 0326 401 898

AA Weatherline 0326 401 899

AA Weatherline 0326 401 896</p

THE TIMES

2

INSIDE
SECTION
2
TODAY



ARTS

A role to cry
for: Madonna
soars as Evita
PAGES 29-31



TRAVEL

When the holiday
booking went
wrong for a family
PAGE 34



SPORT

England's fortunes
turned by Croft
after testing start
PAGES 35-40

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY DECEMBER 19 1996

TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
38, 39

Clarke buoyant on economy after record fall in unemployment

Jobless below 2 million

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, forecast yesterday that Britain's economy will continue to strengthen in the run-up to the general election after a huge fall in unemployment took the number of people out of work to below two million.

Unemployment, seasonally adjusted, fell 95,800 — the largest single drop since current records began, and the biggest monthly decline since just after the Second World War. Ministers lined up to cheerlead the enormous drop in claimant unemployment, with Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, linking it to yesterday's good retail sales figures to show that "people realise the recovery is here to stay, and they themselves are taking the recovery into account".

Mr Clarke called the fall to below two million — the first time it has been below this threshold since 1991 — an "important breakthrough", and said that strong growth and economic recovery in Britain was now getting unemployment down and creating

Undeniable present 25

ing more jobs. He said his "confident expectation is that the economy is going to continue to strengthen", and he denied suggestions from City economists that the labour market was overheating, and that the figures would lead to a rise in interest rates.

Gillian Shepherd, the Education and Employment Secretary, attacked Labour "smears" at Britain's economic performance. Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, gave warning that Labour's plans to sign the European social chapter and introduce a national minimum wage would, if enacted, send UK unemployment back up to three million.

Labour poured scorn on the Government's figures, saying that "more people believe in Santa Claus" than in the official unemployment count. John Prescott, Labour's Deputy Leader, said: "After years of fiddling the claimant figures, with more than 30 changes since 1979, the Tories can now claim that unemployment is below two million. The problem is no one believes their bogus figures." Ministers and

Whitehall officials were taken aback by the size of the fall, the largest since the current series of seasonally adjusted figures began in January 1977, and the biggest since the then-Ministry of Labour introduced adjusted figures in 1948.

Claimant unemployment fell 95,800 in November to 1,925,400 million — a rate of 6.9 per cent, down from 7.2 per cent the previous month. The unemployment rate in Northern Ireland dropped below 10 per cent, to 9.5, for the first time in 15 years.

Unadjusted unemployment — the actual number of people out of work and successfully claiming benefit — went through the two million barrier last month, and fell again in November by 105,837 to 1,871,398. The adjusted decline means that unemployment has now fallen by more than one million from its peak in December 1992.

Whitehall officials stressed a number of special factors behind the figure, including temporary work at Christmas and the first full month of the jobseeker's allowance. Government economists stressed that, even with such factors, the figures still showed a "very substantial" fall in the claimant count.

New figures on employment showed the number of jobs up by 264,000 on a year ago, while the rise in average earnings was steady for the third successive month at 4 per cent.

Tory present, page 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS ON THE HIGH STREETS

Index of retail sales volumes (1985 = 100)



Good tidings for Christmas sales

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

RETAIL sales showed healthier than expected gains in November which, together with yesterday's news of a huge fall in unemployment, raised City expectations that base rates will have to rise again in the new year.

Verdict Research, the retail consultants, said in a report published today that Christmas trade is expected to be the best for eight years but that there is no boom in prospect. It gave warning that the usual cat and mouse games played between shoppers and retailers each Christmas are still

El,000 during December, the consumer recovery is well and truly here," Verdict said.

Retail sales volumes rose 0.7 per cent, according to the latest figures from the Office for National Statistics. This was a somewhat larger increase than the 0.5 per cent rise the City had been expecting but still left year-on-year growth in sales slightly lower. Annual growth was 3.9 per cent in November compared with 4.1 per cent in October.

Short sterling futures contracts, traded on the Liffe market and the best guide to

market interest rate expectations, slumped yesterday as expectations of base-rate rises in the spring increased.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, yesterday said that he remained unflinching in his determination to hit the Government's inflation target but said that inflationary pressures in the economy remained "quite reasonable".

The City was yesterday concerned that, despite plunging producer price inflation, strong consumer demand will encourage retailers to raise their margins rather than take

advantage of lower prices from their industrial suppliers to keep a cap on their prices.

Some economists — without the benefit of Verdict's comment on the sector — noted that clothing and footwear sales rose 2 per cent in November despite a price rise in the sector of 1.1 per cent in the month. John O'Sullivan of NatWest Markets said: "This is clear evidence that the momentum behind high street spending is ending consumers' sensitivity to price increases."

Pennington, page 23

Woolwich
to fight
ending of
takeover
safeguard

By ANNE ASHWORTH

THE Woolwich has pledged that it will fight to amend the Building Societies Bill published yesterday.

The society emphasised that the Bill's proposal to remove the five-year takeover protection period for societies that become banks could hamper its £3 billion flotation. But there is, as yet, no sign that the society would be prepared to abandon its plans before the distribution next month of its transfer document setting out the details of its conversion.

Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, has refused to bow to demands to retain the protective ring, which will be lifted if a newly floated society embarks on the takeover trail. In a statement, the Woolwich said: "We are disappointed the minister has chosen to ignore our serious concerns with regard to the timing of this Bill."

A Woolwich spokeswoman said that the society had recommended to the minister that societies could continue to be safeguarded against predators if they engaged only in friendly takeovers. She continued: "Had the Woolwich known that a change of this magnitude was even a possibility, we may have followed a different path to conversion."

Previously, the most fervent opponent of the abolition of the protection period had been the Alliance & Leicester. This society said yesterday that it shared the Woolwich's misgivings and disappointment. Last month, Peter White, the society's chief executive, gave a warning that its conversion, scheduled for next April, could be in doubt if the five-year protection period was abolished.

Explaining why she had declined to retain the safeguard, Mrs Knight commented: "If you choose to go to the market you have to play by the rules." She remains quietly confident that parliamentary time will be found for the Bill whose contents met with the approval of the Building Societies Association and several societies that are pledged to retain their mutuality.

Pennington, page 23

BUSINESS
TODAY

STOCK MARKET
INDICES

FTSE 100	4018.3	(+38.6)
Yield	3.35%	
FTSE All Share	1963.31	(+15.85)
Nikkei	20933.03	(+32.43)
New York		
Dow Jones	3341.01	(+22.63)
S&P Composite	731.11	(+5.07)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.01%	(5.16)
Long Bond	8.29%	(5.75)
Yield	8.65%	(8.66)

London Money

3-month Interbank	6.1%	(6.1%)
12-month Interbank	10.81%	(10.81%)

STERLING

New York	1.6722*	(1.6717)
London	1.6728*	(1.6723)
S	1.6728*	(1.6723)
DM	2.5298*	(2.5293)
FF	8.7880	(8.7255)
SE	2.2000*	(2.1997)
Yen	180.10	(190.31)
E Index	94.4	(94.0)

SP/US DOLLAR

London	1.6886*	(1.6800)
DM	5.2522*	(5.2300)
FF	1.2400*	(1.2300)
SE	113.60*	(13.68)
E Index	98.1	(98.1)

Tokyo close Yen 113.38

MONTH-TO-MONTH

London	552.70	(553.05)
Brent 15-day (Mar)	552.70	(553.05)

GOLD

London close	338.05	(338.05)
--------------	--------	----------

* denotes midday trading price

Pensions Act
limits loans
to employers

By ROBERT MILLER

NEW rules to prevent trustees lending pension scheme cash to their employer were laid before Parliament yesterday.

From April occupational schemes cannot make loans or give financial guarantees to their sponsoring business. The rules form part of the Pensions Act, drawn up after the £400 million losses sustained by the Maxwell pension funds. They still restrict schemes to a maximum 5 per cent self-investment in the parent company, but tighten the 1992 rules.

Oliver Heald, Pensions Minister, said: "These proposals could save people's pension if the company fails. They prevent employers using the pension scheme as a soft option, rather than conventional lending outlets, such as banks."

London Electricity agrees deal

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

LONDON ELECTRICITY is set for a £1.26 billion takeover by Entergy of America after agreeing a deal that leaves just two of Britain's regional electricity companies independent and without bid offers.

The move means that half of the electricity supply businesses in England and Wales could soon be in US hands. US concerns have bought three companies: Northern Electric is subject to a hostile bid from a US grouping; and the Government yesterday cleared a bid by Dominion Resources of Virginia for East Midlands Electricity.

Four London Electricity directors are set to make a profit

of just under £1 million from share options on the 705p a share bid, which marks a 27 per cent premium on the share price in late October when news leaked of Entergy's talks.

Terry Oglester, president of London Electricity, who met Ed Lupberger, chief executive officer of Entergy Power UK, yesterday, said: "Tapping into the resources of the Entergy group, both human and financial, will provide a solid foundation for the future development of the company."

He declined to confirm spec-

BA sells USAir stake en route to American

By OLIVER AUGUST

BRITISH AIRWAYS is to sell its 24.6 per cent stake in USAir in preparation for its alliance with American Airlines. BA, which paid \$400 million for the shares in 1993, has given USAir 60 days to make an offer before other airlines will be invited to bid.

Although BA was obliged, under US accounting rules, to write down the value of the stake by half, it is worth around \$425 million at current market prices.

The link with USAir has been overshadowed by the proposed alliance with American. Incensed by BA's planned link-up with American, USAir is suing BA in a US federal court and has said it would end its code-sharing pact early next year. The move was not demanded by regulators who only stipulated that USAir should be free to compete on transatlantic routes.

Newcastle United ready to set £160m flotation goal

By JASON NISSET

NEWCASTLE UNITED will announce plans today for a £160 million flotation, making it the second largest quoted football club after Manchester United.

The proceeds will be used to fund a £40 million, 60,000-seater stadium, which has still to receive final planning permission from Newcastle City Council, and pay off a large portion of the £60 million invested in the

Ringing the changes on overseas phone prices

By ERIC REGULY

THE Government today will lay the groundwork for sharp reductions in the prices of overseas phone calls by increasing the number of international licences to more than 40.

The new licences will mark the end of an era for British Telecom and Mercury Communications, which were the only operators allowed to own networks for international telecommunications services.

Competitors had no choice but to lease capacity from them at prices

they claimed were too high and bore no relation to the actual costs.

Under the new licences, phone companies may buy permanent capacity from the owners of undersea cables and satellites, giving them more flexibility to set retail prices. That, combined with the sheer number of additional competitors, will bring down prices next year.

Long Distance International, a US phone company that expects to win an overseas licence, believes that prices could fall by as much as half by this time next year. Tim Parsonson, general

manager of LDI's British operations, said: "We will have more control over our network, which will reduce our underlying costs dramatically. That means we can pass savings to customers."

The Department of Trade and Industry is awarding licences to virtually any phone company that has made an application, with no discrimination between domestic and foreign bidders.

The probable winners include AT&T, America's biggest long-distance carrier, France Telecom, Deut-

sche Telekom, several cable companies and Energis, the telecoms arm of the National Grid.

BT is bracing for the onslaught of new competition. In recent months, it has slashed the prices of transatlantic calls in an effort to give the new licence holders less room to manoeuvre. Calls to Continental Europe and Asia have not declined as much.

Nonetheless, BT expects to lose market share on most, perhaps all, of its international routes. The company, however, may not actually suffer a decline in call revenue if the

lower prices generate more volume. BT has been able to offset falling domestic market share with higher call volume and thinks a similar pattern could be repeated overseas.

Breaking the BT-Mercury duopoly has not been the Government's only goal. The DTI hopes that the new international licences will secure Britain's position as Europe's main telecoms "hub". London has attracted more foreign phone companies than any European city and the increasingly liberal telecoms market should draw in even more players.

Wessex plan to buy back shares could cost £240m

By MARTIN BARROW, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

WESSEX WATER is proposing to buy back up to 25 per cent of its shares at a cost of up to £240 million.

The capital restructuring, announced yesterday, comes after the decision by the Department of Trade and Industry last month to block the company's takeover bid for South West Water, the neighbouring utility.

The proposals include the purchase, at a cost of £157.1 million, of most of the shares held in Wessex by Waste Management International. WMI's interest in the company will fall to 3.3 per cent, from 19.5 per cent. Wessex has agreed to pay WMI no less than 35p a share. WMI's options to acquire 10.6 million Wessex shares will be cancelled.

Wessex also proposes a tender offer for 10 per cent of the ordinary shares not held by WMI at 380p each, against yesterday's stock market price of 367.4p and at a 7 per cent

premium to the price agreed with WMI. Assuming a full take-up, this would be completed at a cost of £79.5 million.

Private investors holding no more than 200 shares are also able to sell the shares under the tender offer, enabling full realisation of their investment without dealing costs. All ordinary shareholders will remain entitled to receive the 5.5p a share interim dividend on shares purchased under the tender offer.

Nicholas Hood, chairman, said the tender offer and repurchase "will materially enhance Wessex Water's ability to increase earnings per share, improve the company's ability to pay increased dividends per share and simplify the capital structure".

He added: "Following the share capital restructuring there will be sufficient funding capacity available to meet the investment requirements of the water and waste business and to pursue other opportunities."

WMI acquired an initial shareholding in Wessex in 1991, and together the companies established Wessex Waste Management as a joint venture. The equity transaction will have no operational impact on WMI.

WMI, which is controlled by America's WMX Technologies, said that the transaction will give rise to a £37.5 million charge after tax. WMI obtained a share listing in London in 1992 by way of a placing at 55p a share. Yesterday the shares fell 1p, to 262p.

Under a previous agreement, WMI was precluded from selling its interest in Wessex until early 1998.

When the Wessex transaction is completed WMX will have generated £1 billion in cash from the disposal of assets as it seeks to reduce debts and focus on better-performing businesses.

Limerick wins 400 new jobs

Eastman Kodak, the photographic equipment company, is to invest £160 million in a new factory in Limerick, in the southwest of Ireland.

The new plant will produce film cassettes for the recently launched advanced photo system (APS) range of equipment and will create 400 new jobs within four years.

APS is a new generation of photographic equipment that has taken the US market by storm. APS photographs can be printed or put on to computer discs or CD-Roms.

Zergo profits

Zergo Holdings, the supplier of information security solutions, earned pre-tax profits of £237,000 in the half year to October 31, compared with a loss of £479,000 in the first half of the previous year.

Earnings were 1.81p a share, against losses of 5.47p last time. There is again no interim dividend. At October 31 the order book was 64 per cent higher at £4 million.

R&N higher

Rolf & Nolan, the global derivatives and treasury management systems and services provider, had pre-tax profits of £1.11 million for the half year to August 31, against £1.07 million previously. Earnings were 5.57p a share (5.35p). The interim dividend is increased to 1.7p a share from 1.6p, due January 28.



Pleasant reading: Brian Ingleby, chief executive, right, and Gerry Connolly, finance director, saw pre-tax profits at Dawson Holdings, the provider of information-related services, rise to £9.8 million (£3.5 million) in the year to September 30. Results benefited from the purchase of the 57.5 per cent interest not already held in Surridge Dawson, and the integration of the American library supply business around Faxon. A 26p final dividend gives a 40p (30p) total.

Users welcome gas rivalry

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GAS consumers in the South West, where companies are fighting British Gas for business, have given a vote of confidence for competition in the industry.

A majority of households told a MORI poll they welcomed rivalry in gas supply because it brings prices down and keeps companies on their toes. Sixty-six per cent of

people questioned in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset said competition was good or fairly good idea. But the numbers switching supplier remain subdued. Ofgas said yesterday that nearly 17 per cent, or 34,700 homes, of the 500,000 able to shop around had moved from British Gas. The majority of those changing in the South West said they had done so for price rather than out of dissatisfaction with British Gas's service. Doorstep sales, which have caused considerable controversy, were surprisingly well received. More than half of those people who had had face-to-face contact with gas sales people said they were satisfied, with 23 per cent complaining that they were not.

Under a previous agreement, WMI was precluded from selling its interest in Wessex until early 1998.

When the Wessex transaction is completed WMX will have generated £1 billion in cash from the disposal of assets as it seeks to reduce debts and focus on better-performing businesses.

Western is offering \$22.50 for each ADT share in cash and shares, giving a 12 per cent premium over the company's closing price of \$20.125 in New York on Tuesday.

While Mr Ashcroft had a close relationship with Mr Huizinga, who owns the land on which ADT's Boca Raton headquarters stands, he is not friendly with Western. However, he would make about \$100 million dollars from the takeover.

Western is likely to keep the security business of ADT while spinning off the car auction operation, which is one of the largest in the US. ADT's European car auction business was sold earlier this year.

Two months ago Republic Industries, the waste disposal and auctions group run by Wayne Huizinga, the entre-

preneur, allowed a \$5 billion all-shares bid for ADT to lapse after Republic's shares fell heavily, reducing the value of the offer.

Delays have been blamed on ministries and business elements fighting to capitalise on gas sales. From January 1, the CSO will no longer be obliged to buy Russian diamonds if agreement has not been reached.

The uncertainties failed to dent CSO sales of rough diamonds, which rose to a record \$4.8 billion in 1996, a rise of 7 per cent. There was some disruption in cutting centres in India after Argyle's decision to market its diamonds direct, but second-hand sales remained strong at \$2.1 billion.

De Beers has been sitting on a revised deal with Russia for most of the year and has grown

Tempus, page 24

increasingly frustrated with the lack of progress. The previous accord, signed in 1989, left De Beers obliged to accept large parcels of gems despite a high "leakage" of diamonds outside the CSO net. A spokesman said: "We are tired of being a buyer of last resort."

Delays have been blamed on ministries and business elements fighting to capitalise on gas sales. From January 1, the CSO will no longer be obliged to buy Russian diamonds if agreement has not been reached.

The uncertainties failed to dent CSO sales of rough diamonds, which rose to a record \$4.8 billion in 1996, a rise of 7 per cent. There was some disruption in cutting centres in India after Argyle's decision to market its diamonds direct, but second-hand sales remained strong at \$2.1 billion.

De Beers has been sitting on a revised deal with Russia for most of the year and has grown

Tempus, page 24

Lloyd's test cases get under way

By JON ASHWORTH

LLOYD'S OF LONDON goes to court today in the next stage of its drawn-out battle with non-paying names. Lloyd's is seeking to establish a benchmark with respect to recovering outstanding funds. Judgment could be postponed until after Christmas.

Lloyd's hopes to secure so-called Order 14 judgments in three test cases, setting the tone for future action. It is focusing on individuals who have refused to pay premiums

being led by Philip Holden, who is on secondment to Lloyd's from the firm of Dibb Lupton Alsop.

Another law firm, Freshfields, is working on today's action. Gordon Pollock, QC, acting for Lloyd's, is likely to draw heavily on the settlement offer document. Steps to recover debts got underway after a majority of names endorsed the Lloyd's Reconstruction and Renewal (R&R) plan. Tony Gooda, the disgraced underwriter, and Robin Kingsley, chairman of

the Lime Street Agency, are among those to have received writs.

The number of individual names underwriting at Lloyd's is set to fall sharply next year. Lloyd's says that 9,972 names will supply £5.8 billion of capacity, down from £22.78 in 1996. The balance of £4.5 billion (£3.04 billion) will come from 202 corporate and limited liability names, leaving allocated capacity little changed at £10.3 billion.

A softer image, page 25

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

SIB aims to improve metal exchange deals

THE Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the City's chief watchdog, will today unveil a series of measures designed to make metal transactions on the London Metal Exchange more transparent in the wake of the \$2.6 billion losses sustained by Sumitomo Corporation this year.

The Securities and Investments Board, headed by Sir Andrew Large, is expected to accept the metal exchange's submission that it is, on the whole, well-regulated. However, besides reforms to the metal transaction reporting system, the watchdog will also call for improvements on issues such as the exchange's governance. Concerns have also been expressed that metal exchange members have too much control over the way the exchange is run. The exchange last year contributed £250 million to the Treasury's coffers. The metal exchange was the first to raise the alarm over the alleged fraudulent copper transactions of Yasuo Hamanaka, the former chief trader at Sumitomo, back in 1991. In spite of the metal exchange's concerns, which were reported immediately to the SIB, Mr Hamanaka, who is currently being held in custody by the Japanese authorities, was allowed to continue to dominate the market.

Injunction blow for BT

THE High Court has refused to grant British Telecom an injunction that would have prevented rival AT&T, America's largest long-distance carrier, from advertising comparative price rates in the UK. The ruling came four months after BT served a writ on AT&T, alleging that it had infringed BT's trademark and "maliciously" made false statements about BT's service. AT&T had been claiming that consumers could save up to 40 per cent on BT's international call rates by switching to AT&T.

Oceanics to sell unit

OCEONICS, the troubled UK marine services group, is poised to sell its loss-making survey and positioning activities to Fugro, the Dutch survey and geotechnical company, for an estimated £6.5 million. If the sale goes ahead, the group will still own 46 per cent of Gall Thomson Environmental, which was floated on the Alternative Investment Market in August. Oceanics reported pre-tax profits of £2.69 million for the half year to September 30 (£1.6 million loss). Earnings were 3.9p a share (5.1p loss). There is again no interim dividend.

Orders climb at Siebe

SIEBE, the engineering group, yesterday announced new orders with a total value of £150 million. The orders come from international customers in the chemical, oil, gas, power and semiconductor sectors. In the power generation sector, Siebe has grown its segmental market share with systems orders totalling £8 million for projects in Australia, Puerto Rico, America and the Middle and Far East. The need to upgrade plants in response to increasing regulation in the power industry offers Siebe new sales opportunities.

Creighton's fund-raiser

CREIGHTON'S NATURALLY, the toiletries manufacturer, is raising £11 million through a placing and open offer of new shares at 23p each to reduce borrowings and provide additional working capital. Existing shares fell 12.5p to 27.5p. The company had losses of £1.4 million (£500,000 losses) in the six months to September 30. Exceptional charges were £1.5 million. John Carr, chairman, said: "The proposals will give us a solid base from which to develop the existing business of Creighton's and to seek acquisitions which provide a basis for future growth."

BRADFORD & BINGLEY'S NEW RATES OF INTEREST EFFECTIVE FROM 20 DECEMBER 1996

Account	Balance	Annual Interest		Monthly Interest	
		Gross % p.a.	Net Equiv. % p.a.	Gross % p.a.	Net Equiv. % p.a.
TIMESAVER*					
£1+	£1.00	0.55	0.50	-	-
£10+	1.00	0.50	0.40	-	-
£50+	1.00	0.80	-	-	-
£2,500+	1.00	1.25	-	-	-
£10,000+	2.10	1.55	-	-	-
£25,000+	2.60	2.08	-	-	-
Premier Deposit*					
£1+	0.25	0.20	-	-	-
£10+	1.60	1.08	-	-	-
£100+	3.00	2.24	-	-	-
£250+	8.75	5.00	-	-	-
£500+	1.25	1.00	-	-	-
£500+	2.50	2.04	-	-	-
£1,000+	2.85	2.25	-	-	-
£10,000+	3.40	2.72	-	-	-
£25,000+	3.60	3.04	-	-	-
£50,000+	2.60	2.08	-	-	-
£100,000+	3.45	2.78	-	-	-
£250,000+	3.85	3.05	-	-	-
£500,000+	3.85	3.05	-	-	-
£1,000,000+	3.85	3.05	-	-	-
Business Account (Including Bonus)					
£500+	2.60	2.08	-	-	

DECEMBER
BUSINESS ROUNDUP
ims to improve
exchange deal

tion blow for

ies to sell unit

climb at Sieb

ton's fund-rai

□ The politics of power bids □ Mixed reception for Societies Bill □ Perverse view taken on retail sales

□ IT is not often that stock market investors see the equivalent of a bundle of banknotes lying unwanted in the middle of the road, and no moral obligation to hand the lot into the local police station. But the current share price of London Electricity at 696½p is saying there is a significant chance of the bid, at 719½p a share if you include the promised interim dividend, not going ahead.

There is only one reason why this might happen, and this is government interference. Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, has shown himself hugely unpredictable of late, but there seems no reason why he should allow through a controversial and contested American offer for Northern Electric and then block an agreed one for London.

Put this to the market doubters, and they mutter that a purchase of London could be "too politically sensitive", a view that has now become received wisdom. The argument seems to be that the capital's power lines are so sacred, keeping the lights burning for all those politicians, industrialists and opinion formers, that they cannot be risked in foreign hands. Does this mean that those living in more benighted parts of the British Isles can cheerfully be cast into the outer darkness? Presumably not. Assume Mr

Lang is in a rational mood. The deal will go through at first price, even if no counter-bid looks likely. Northern's share price spent the day moving backwards, as the market gradually decided the level of the London offer meant its own terms, to be decided on by shareholders by tomorrow lunchtime, were less attractive. It is hard to make this stack up from the mathematics. The advisers to Entergy worked it thus. They looked at the terms on offer in the third running electricity bid, for East Midlands, substituted London's cash flow, and ended at 717 or so, adding the dividend to appear on the generous side. London wasn't arguing.

But East Midlands and London are very similar businesses. Northern is not, with a more stretched balance sheet and in a less attractive part of the country, in energy consumption terms. It flies in the face of logic to assess the three on the same basis. The 780p Northern was suggesting yesterday looks a fantasy. But the battle will be a near-run thing.

The London offer seems to seal

the fate of the remaining two regional electricity distributors, Yorkshire and Southern. American power firms are keen to buy here both to escape a restrictive regulatory straight-jacket at home and to gain experience in our system of regulation, widely expected to be adopted there and in various growth markets for electricity around the world.

They will have to do so before the election and will not be put off by any windfall tax. Heaven knows what Mr Lang will do when the last domino falls. But look on the bright side. A fair few merchant bankers have had their Christmases ruined.

Mutual joy could be short-lived.

□ THOSE building societies keen on mutuality were effusive in their welcome for the new revised Building Societies Bill. They may live to regret their enthusiasm. One senior figure at a society headed for the stockmarket made the usual seasonal quip about "turkeys voting for Christmas", suggesting that the

legislation left the determinedly mutual set more vulnerable to takeovers than before.

Continuing in the same ornithological vein, he said the Bill afforded societies no greater protection and left them like so many "sitting ducks", tasty meals for predators such as BAT. This last would indeed love a sizeable mutual such as the Nationwide, while there are plenty of other aggressors such as Lloyds TSB, already owner of the Cheltenham & Gloucester.

It is hard not to agree with him. Some might find it surprising that the societies did not lobby more aggressively for the strengthening of the two-year rule. This prevents those who have not been with a society for

this length of time from receiving cash on the takeover of a society. They can, however, be rewarded in shares, which amounts to the same thing.

Ever the politician, Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, has declined to play hunt the carpet-bagger and reduce the numbers of investors eligible for a payout. Anxious to spread the "feel-good" factor far and wide, she would never have wanted to make it more difficult for as many as possible to pick a parcel of free shares. Some cynical commentators have even suggested this keenness to ensure as many households as possible receive such windfalls may have something to do with the election. Perish the thought.

The result is that predators will find it easier to persuade the members of a society to accept their offer. Had the Bill moved to exclude members of less than two years standing from windfalls, they could, in a fit of pique, have used their votes to rebuff the aggressor. Instead, they benefit with the rest.

The Bill may still not gain the necessary parliamentary time.

were sales rose healthily despite the fact that prices are rising.

But put this in perspective. Clothing and footwear prices are only just higher than a year ago having showed year on year falls for months. Verdict Research yesterday specifically noted that clothing and footwear was a patchy sector, so much so that a number of retailers had introduced pre-Christmas sales to try and entice shoppers to spend.

If that doesn't lighten dark thoughts of inflation, so curmudgeonly in this festive season, perhaps it is worth noting that November's sales predated the latest round of mortgage increases. Together with the base rate rise the City so confidently expects early next year, perhaps we consumers should be allowed to enjoy a tiny spending spree before the sky falls in.

Building cracks

□ RECOVERY for the building industry is now officially underway. Builders are like farmers – it is too hot or too cold, too wet or too dry. The first sign of any upturn is roaring about labour shortages, which send wages higher. A warning arrived on cue yesterday, from the chartered surveyors. Having spent six years laying people off because of falling workload, the builders are now short of staff again.

Gulf bid for Clyde lifts oil exploration shares

By CARL MORTIMER

OIL exploration stocks soared yesterday as Gulf Canada Resources launched a surprise bid for Clyde Petroleum.

The Canadian energy group, once part of Olympia & York, the Reichmann brothers' failed property empire, is offering £432 million in cash, or 105p per share, for the British North Sea exploration company, which recently acquired assets in Indonesia and Australia.

Clyde's share price jumped from 84p to 118p on news of the bid. Clyde's board, later said that the offer was unacceptable and failed to take account of the group's record and prospects.

Other oil shares, including Enterprise, Hardy and Lasmo, joined the rally, and analysts predicted that Gulf

Canada's move would spark off other bids in the UK's independent oil exploration sector.

Colin Smith, analyst at BZW, explained that UK oil shares looked cheap to North American companies valuing the sector on cashflow multiples. "This could be the return of 1988 when prices in the North Sea lost touch with reality. Now is not the time to reality," he commented.

Gulf's share price

without warning. James Bryan, chief executive officer, said he had no previous contact with Clyde and only attempted to call its chairman, Malcolm Gourlay, minutes before the bid terms were published by the Stock Exchange. Mr Bryan said: "I think this is the best way to do it. We put out a price

which we think is fair. This is not hostile to shareholders. It may be hostile to people who want to keep their jobs but that is not the real issue."

Mr Bryan said that Gulf was interested in Clyde's production profile and obtaining a position in the North Sea. "We don't want to pay a premium for exploration and Clyde doesn't have one," he commented. He said that Gulf had lined up a £31 billion bank facility to fund the purchase of Clyde.

Gulf claimed yesterday that its offer represented a premium of 69 per cent over Clyde's published net asset value per share and a 25 per cent premium over a "going concern" value of 84p attributed to Houze Govett, Clyde's stockbrokers. Directors of Clyde, including Mr Gourlay, sold share options on Monday at a price of 81p.

With a market worth of \$2.2 billion, Gulf Canada has expanded rapidly since it emerged from the ashes of Olympia & York in 1995 via a C\$300 million management buy-in. Gulf has 521 million barrels of net proven reserves and its production averaged 141,000 barrels per day in the third quarter of this year.

Gulf has extensive interests in Indonesia, where Clyde recently acquired a stake in the Kakap field. Mr Bryan said that Gulf would move its international operations from Calgary to London. The company also plans to float of \$2 billion of its Indonesian oil interests, on the Singapore stock exchange.

Rexam to sell off 20 businesses

By MARIANNE CUPPEN

REXAM, the paper and packaging company, confirmed yesterday that it is to put 20 businesses with a total turnover of £300 million on the market (Aldair Murray

The move follows a review that resulted in the company restructuring into seven divisions.

While looking for buyers, the company will place the businesses in a new division, Rexam.

Rolf Borjesson, chief executive, said the company would initially use proceeds from the sales to cut debt although it would seek to strengthen its divisions in the medium term.

Rexam said that about 4,000 staff would be affected by the sale plan. It was confident that job losses would be minimised. *Tempus*, page 24

First Choice cuts payout despite profits recovery



63½p yesterday amid hopes that the new management team would improve margins and reduce costs.

The dividend cut comes 13 months after First Choice launched a £44.1 million rights issue at 60p a share to enable it to buy Skibound, the leading operator in the UK group ski market.

Meanwhile, Thomson and Airtours, the two biggest tour operators, have been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for alleged anti-competitive behaviour, a charge that First Choice has escaped.

Mr Long said that bookings for the UK summer season were up 42 per cent on last year and the group had sold 25 per cent of full-season capacity, compared with 17 per cent in 1995. Winter bookings are down 2 per cent.

The shares rose 4½p to

Channel 5 tunes in to £150m costs

By ERIC REEDY

PEARSON, the publishing and entertainment company, confirmed yesterday that re-tuning costs of Channel 5, where it has a 24 per cent holding, have climbed to £150 million, more than double the original estimate. The cost, revealed in *The Times* last week, was contained in an end-of-year trading statement. The channel will make its debut on March 30.

Pearson also confirmed that Mindscape, its US computer games business, is expected to lose £46 million but will break even late next year. Analysts think Marjorie Scardino, who replaces Frank Barlow as chief executive in January, will sell Mindscape. There is speculation that she may sell Pearson's half interest in Lizards, as well as Madame Tussauds.



Marjorie Scardino is thought likely to sell Mindscape when she joins Pearson as chief executive

Mayflower's £38m paperchase

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

AN administrative mix-up has led to millions of pounds worth of share certificates being issued by Mayflower Holdings, the vehicle parts company, even though they cannot be traded until Monday.

A total of 32.8 million new shares at 126p have been

London ammunition for Northern defence

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NORTHERN ELECTRIC has stepped up its fight against CE Electric's £782 million hostile bid, which closes tomorrow, by arguing that the bid for London Electricity increased the value of independent electricity companies.

CE Electric is offering 650p for each Northern share. But Northern says it would be worth 780p a share on the multiple used for London by Entergy. Northern has previously indicated a value of 745p

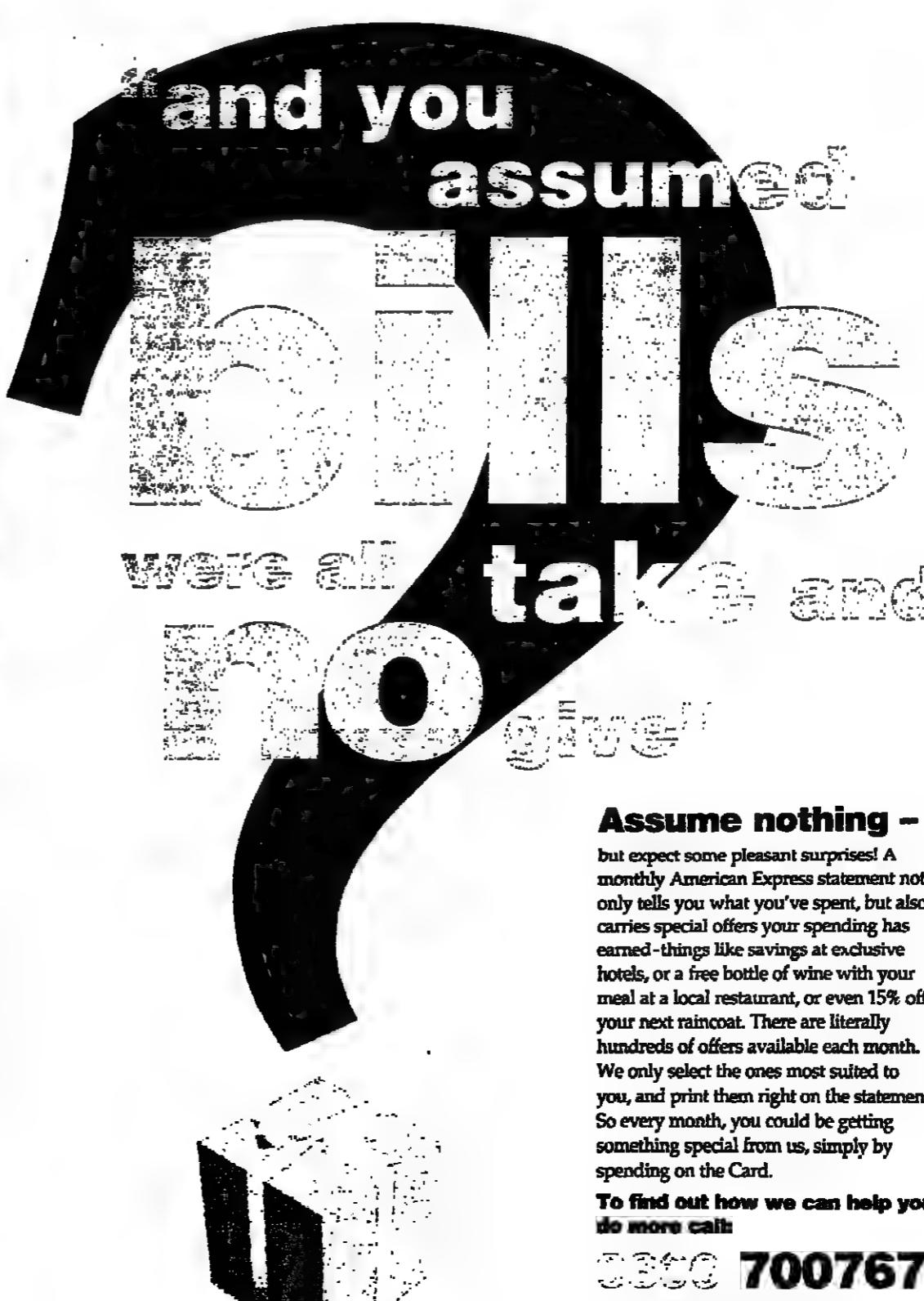
a share but would have discussed a bid around 700p.

David Morris, Northern's chairman, said: "CE Electric is looking to short-change investors in Northern Electric with a price whose inadequacy is further highlighted by today's bid for London Electricity."

David Sokol, chairman and chief executive of CE Electric, said: "Entergy had the opportunity to acquire Northern Electric at a price of more than 650p per share but chose not to."

issued by Mayflower in its £38 million rights issue to help fund the company's £165 million acquisition of SCSM Holdings, the US pressing business.

Mayflower said yesterday that investors acquiring shares in the company should not accept settlement through the new certificates until the rights issue shares closed



Assume nothing –

but expect some pleasant surprises! A monthly American Express statement not only tells you what you've spent, but also carries special offers your spending has earned – things like savings at exclusive hotels, or a free bottle of wine with your meal at a local restaurant, or even 15% off your next raincoat. There are literally hundreds of offers available each month. We only select the ones most suited to you, and print them right on the statement. So every month, you could be getting something special from us, simply by spending on the Card.

To find out how we can help you do more call:

3333 700767



Cards

CHG1



To join, call from now on
0800 444 445

and ask for extension 6199. Immediate cover available.

STOCK MARKETS

MICHAEL CLARK

Festive boost pushes the index back above 4,000

A BOUT of pre-Christmas window dressing and a sharp opening rise on Wall Street carried share prices in London back above the 4,000 level to close near their best of the day.

Bolstered by news of three sizeable takeovers and an opening gain for the Dow Jones industrial average of more than 40 points, the FTSE 100 index soared 38.6 to close at 4,018.2. Turnover also reached its highest this week with 929 million shares changing hands. However, it appears that much of the turnover can be accounted for by intra trading between market-makers. Genuine retail demand was thin on the ground.

The agreed offer of 705p a share for London Electricity from Entergy, the US power group, came as no surprise. London responded with a rise of 13p at 6961.5p. The deal values London at £1.2 billion.

It follows close on the heels of last week's decision by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, to allow CE Electric's bid for Northern Electric to proceed. Northern closed 51p cheaper at 630p. The Government also gave the go-ahead yesterday for Dominion Resources to pursue its £1.3 billion bid for East Midlands, 4p higher at 661.5p.

But the market was caught on the hop by the agreed bid for Clyde Petroleum of 105p a share from Gulf Canada Resources. Clyde rejected the bid, which values it at £432 million, out of hand. Clyde responded with a rise of 34p to 118p as almost five million shares changed hands.

The bid for Clyde and the Government decision to offer remaining blocks of the North Sea for exploration also prompted mark-ups for Cairn Energy, 211p to 411p; Enterprise Oil, 241p to 595.5p; Hardy Oil & Gas, 231p to 266p; Monument Oil & Gas, 4p to 65p; Premier Oil, 21p to 32.5p; and Lasmo, 71p to 22.5p.

Michael Ashcroft's ADT surged 162.5p to 137.5 as Western Resources offered to mop up the outstanding 73 per cent of the shares it does not own for \$3.5 billion. In September ADT abandoned a \$5 billion merger with Republi-Industries because of market uncertainty.

General Accident finished 19p higher at 735.5p on persistent suggestions that BAT Industries may be looking to bid after talks with Commer-



BA was 91p higher after Bob Ayling charted a new course

cial Union about a possible merger broke down. Commercial Union came in for profit-taking after hitting a high this week on speculative buying. It finished 61p cheaper at 669.5p.

Some bearish comments from NatWest Securities left Rendkild 2p lighter at 437p. After meeting the company earlier this week the broker

Laing, the brokers, both rate the shares a "buy".

British Airways rose 91p to 601p after telling USAir it planned to dispose of its 24.6 per cent shareholding. Bob Ayling, chief executive, said BA regretted the action but would not get into bed with an unwilling partner. USAir decided on legal action after BA announced plans to link up

with rival American Airlines.

Fairay rose 41p to 586.5p on further reflection of its £51.1 million bid for Burnfield, 1p firmer at 130p. The terms value Burnfield at 146.5p a share.

The capital restructuring at Wesser Water left the shares 1p easier at 365.5p. As part of the deal Waste Management International will reduce its holding from 19.5 per cent to

13.5 per cent, with Wessex bidding 380p for 10 per cent of the shares not held by Wesser. The entire cost of the buyback is estimated at £240 million. This follows the Government's decision to block Wessex's bid for South West Water, down 121p to 596.5p.

Hartstone firmed 1p to 121p after holding the dividend despite plunging into the red in the first six months. Losses were £2.1 million compared with a profit last time of almost £3 million. Increased losses at Richards left its shares 4p off at 351p.

The decision not to pay a dividend and to ask shareholders for an extra £1 million left Creighton's naturally nursing a fall of 121p at 271p. The placing and open offer at 23p will be used to secure the group's immediate future. The group plunged into the red last year with losses of £1.4 million.

A near tripling of profits lifted Dawson Holdings 22.5p to 217.5. Profit growth is expected to come from its electronic publishing arm.

BZW Endowment Fund established an opening premium after the issue had been oversubscribed. The investment trust was offered at 50p and, after reaching a high for the day of 52.5p, closed at 52p.

Aspen Communications

dropped 21p to 107.5p after warning that a change in its accounting policy will reduce profits this year by £500,000.

A leap in profit last year and news of a strong rise in bookings for the summer season next year lifted First Choice 41p to 63.5p.

□ GLT-EDGED: The bond market scored some early losses after reacting badly to the latest fall in the unemployment numbers. The short end of the market bore the brunt of the falls, while longer dated issues closed above their worst. This produced a further flattening of the yield curve.

In futures the March series of the long gilt closed almost-square at £1021.1p as a total of 46,000 contracts were completed. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 rose 11p to £101.29, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was seven ticks down at £102.1p.

□ NEW YORK: High technology shares were back in favour on Wall Street and the sector's bounce helped prices generally. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 32.68 points higher at 6,341.01.

has also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from Pearson was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of 22p at 731.5p. Trading during the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais

also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to

THE
TIMES
CITY
DIARY

Proof is in
the pudding

PROOF that peace still plays an important part in the festive season... On the day that the Building Societies Bill was published, a Moscimann's Christmas pudding in a beautiful gold carrier was delivered to the door of Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury. It was a Yuletide gift from Peter White, chief executive of the Alliance & Leicester, whose strong objections to "that clause" threatened to postpone the society's £2.5 billion conversion.

Satisfied that the parcel wasn't ticking, the Economic Secretary read the attached note. It was Peter White wishing her a very Happy Christmas. Not one to miss a trick, he added just how sorry he was that White Knight couldn't make it to A&L's Christmas drinks last week.



Knight peace meal.

Hedging bets

WHILE BBC1 and ITV slug it out on Christmas Day in their traditional festive ratings battle, one telly bigwig will be able to watch the fray with cool detachment. Peter Orton, the urbane managing director of HIT Entertainment, which was floated on AIM in July, will have the pleasure of seeing two of his top children's shows aired on Christmas Day. BBC1 will be showing *Brambly Hedge* in the prime slot of 4.15pm, while ITV will show *Percy the Park Keeper* at 10.15am. "Whichever channel wins the ratings battle, it is bound to be a HIT Christmas," Orton chuckles.

Cold caller

MICHAEL HARDNER, the arch building society carpetbagger, is braving the cold outside the Piccadilly branch of Bradford & Bingley. For the past week, the former butler to the Royal Family has been collecting signatures for his hard-fought campaign. Not to be outdone, B&B has installed an extra security guard on the door and recruited a regional officer to stand outside, explaining to passers-by that the campaigner is not the property of B&B.

SAFEWAYS has become the first supermarket in the UK to sell package holidays directly through a customer loyalty card scheme. The ABC Holiday Line will go live from the start of next year, offering discount holidays in exchange for ABC points.

Back on menu

A TURNAROUND at McDonnell Information Systems, the computer services group that floated last year, hit by hard times, its Christmas shindig was erased from the corporate calendar last December. Yesterday, however, it was back in force, celebrating at Claridge's.

PETER LONG, the recently appointed managing director at First Choice, was candid with analysts yesterday on one subject at least. He let slip on his plans for the holiday season. Not long in the job after the departure of Francis Baron in November, he made it clear that, as the new boy, he would be too busy to even think about going away.

MORAG PRESTON

In 1964, Labour came to office after 13 years anxious to boost economic performance with the white heat of technical progress. Industry was falling behind foreigners, supposedly by paying too much in dividends and investing too little in change and expansion. The 1965 Budget brought in a corporation tax that made dividends cost more but cut tax on profits ploughed back into the business. Big companies felt they had to maintain their dividends; shareholders insisted. Result: the dividends left less profit to plough back. It was a classic example of a reform that achieves the opposite of what is intended.

In 1996, *plus ça change*. Labour, and others, reckon big business pays too much in dividends compared with foreign rivals but scrapes on investment. Conclusion: there must be something wrong with the corporation tax system. The Tories had changed it back to undo the dividend penalty. In the process, they favoured dividends to tax-exempt pension funds.

Labour was long wedded to making investment fully deductible. But this would have sent the main rate of corporation tax back up from 33 to 50 per cent or more. So image-conscious New Labour is rethinking.

The Commission on Public Policy and British Business, another of those independent groups set up by the Labour-oriented Institute for Public Policy Research, favours something more subtle. The "allowance for corporate equity", or ACE, would let companies count notional interest on retained earnings or new share capital against

corporation tax, just like interest on loans. Retentions finance most capital spending so this should boost investment.

As a quid pro quo for relief of profits, imputed tax on dividends could no longer be counted against corporation tax. And that means pension funds and charities could no longer claim 20 per cent back from the Inland Revenue. They would be no worse off, the business commission claims, because their shares would gain from the profits ploughed into investment.

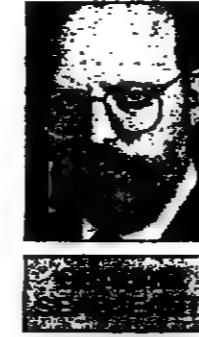
In an ideal world, taxes should be neutral between risk capital and loans. In practice, as ever, the transition is not easy. Labour's commission, doubtless inspired by folk memories of 1965, takes care to retrace the elephant traps. The change would cost £4 billion in tax unless the rate of corporation tax was jacked up. Yet the low rate has helped to attract inward investment.

Axing pension funds' tax refunds might deter saving. The funds might press for higher dividends to compensate, as they did when Norman Lamont cut refunds from 25 to 20 per cent. Reform, the commission concludes, had best be phased in over ten

years, hoping that higher growth from extra investment will fill the gaps. Then there are the actuaries. They tend to value pension funds on projected future dividends. If actuaries thought dividends would be held back, funds could well be valued lower, obliging companies to stump up more in contributions instead of investing.

That does not mean actuaries are right. The accounting valuation of pension funds is up for discussion and could be changed, but the signs are not good. Accountants can hardly grumble. Balance-sheet valuations of

Don't make dividends the scapegoat for low growth



Philip Bassett assesses the accuracy of the reported fall in unemployment

Undeniable present for the Tories



Michael Heseltine, Gillian Shephard and Kenneth Clarke gathered to bang the Government's drum on job figures

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, glancing at his Cabinet colleagues flanking him yesterday — Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, and Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade — quipped: "As you can see, we are out in force."

Out in force ministers certainly were yesterday as the Government announced a huge 95,800 fall in claimant unemployment — the biggest monthly drop for a quarter of a century, taking seasonally adjusted unemployment to well below the significant threshold of two million for the first time for six years.

Why? What happened in November to produce such a huge fall? Is it real — and will it last? To try to answer these key questions, it is necessary to look at a range of special factors which may have affected yesterday's totals, and especially at figures which rarely get examined — not the levels of unemployment, or even the month-by-month changes, but the flows on and off the claimant count.

In spite of the growth in long-term unemployment, joblessness is not, in the main, a static pool, but a constantly changing flow of people moving from their jobs — sometimes voluntarily, often not — into unemployment, and then often back into work.

Between October and November, 253,800 people joined the

unemployment count. While this is lower than a year ago — 86,700 lower — as unemployment continues to fall, it is not hugely different from the inflow over the previous month: only 500 lower. So not that many fewer people actually became unemployed.

But there was a large increase in the number of exits from the count — the outflow. According to the Office for National Statistics, 336,300 people left the count between October and November. This is higher than a year ago — 22,500 higher, in fact, as the economy improves, jobs grow, and unemployment declines. But it is as much as 22,400 higher than the previous month. A key to this is likely to be the introduction of the jobseeker's allowance — the Government's new payment to replace unemployment benefit. Yesterday's figures were the first to reflect a full month of the JSA's operation.

Opponents of the JSA argued that it would be a deterrent, and it seems to have been so. New claims are taking longer to process — Labour said yesterday it had many reports of the JSA's introduction being so "chaotic" that it made the claimant count figures meaningless — and Whitehall officials said the JSA's main rule change of means testing for benefit payment after six months rather than 12 months is likely to cut the count by some 5,000, while the administrative problems could account for a further

20,000 of the overall fall. Mrs Shephard praised such moves, insisting that the taxpayer was now getting better value for money by such measures helping to remove people from the unemployment count who ought not to be there. One of the problems for the Government is that, as *The Times* showed

yesterday, employment growth — now clearly in place — has not been at a sufficient pace to account for the tumbling unemployment rolls. Job vacancies are at an historically high level, with the number of unfilled vacancies in job centres — thought to be about a third of the total across the

economy — now at 269,700. Separate new employment figures from the ONS yesterday showed a 165,000 increase in the employer-based workforce in employment series, while the latest quarterly Labour Market Trends household-based survey, also released yesterday, confirmed

a slow rise in employment. However the time gap between the monthly claimant count and unemployment series and the three-monthly LFS figures offers little help to one month's jobless numbers — and ministers have just rejected making the LFS monthly, on grounds of cost.

But new work by the ONS trying to track claimants leaving the unemployment count is showing that more people are moving from the count back into work. The number was 30 per cent higher — about 40,000 more people — than in November last year, which Whitehall officials took as a clear sign of real job growth.

Pizza Hut's announcement of 5,000 new jobs was the icing on the cake yesterday. But the Government's opponents see the growth of such jobs — often part-time, temporary, with what they see as poor conditions and low security and prospects — as an equally good example of the insubstantiality of the modern UK jobs market.

But even after allowing for every special factor — and some of them put forward in Whitehall yesterday were, to put it kindly, highly speculative — yesterday's figures showed an undeniably substantial fall in the claimant count: one so undeniable that Labour's attempts to cast doubt on the statistics seemed misguided and desperate in the face of figures for which at heart there is little meaningful explanation other than the obvious one — that unemployment is down and going down.

Ministers may or may not be right to claim, as Mr Heseltine did yesterday, that the figures reflected Britain's improved competitiveness, or, as Mr Clarke did, its strong and sustainable economic growth, or as Mrs Shephard did, its flexible labour market, or, as Mr Lang did, its low burdens on business.

And while the current economic judgments, including the unemployment figures, new retail sales data yesterday and the glowing report on Britain's economy from the OECD earlier this week, brought ministers out in unprecedented numbers to beat the Government's drum, they were careful not to make a direct translation from that to people's electoral feelings. Ministers know that such figures are a real boost to the electoral "feel-good" factor as well as the economy. Privately, they might not have minded them a touch closer to the election. But a 95,800 fall in unemployment will do very nicely, thank you, as a Christmas present.

Lloyd's heavies seek a softer image

Jon Ashworth
on a legal firm
wanting still
more after a
quantum-leap
merger deal



Nigel Knowles rewrote the business plan when he arrived

Knowles, arrived in January, and set about rewriting the business plan when he arrived

in May. Cameron McKenna will challenge Dibb Lupton in fee income, but modestly claims eighth place.

A key plank fell into place in October, when Dibb Lupton merged with Alsop Wilkinson, creating a practice with 1,600 staff and £100 million fee income. It is the UK's seventh largest law firm. The next set of dominoes toppled this week, when Cameron Markby Hewitt and McKenna & Co announced they intended to

seek to act for good clients, we seek to attract good people, and we seek to be profitable so that we can continue to grow the business? If that's aggressive, I don't agree."

Taking the Lloyd's assignment was never going to help matters. Holden, who has seen his stint extended until next summer, knows this only too well, and even Knowles accepts that there have been difficulties.

"When we got the Lloyd's work, the headlines appeared to be those rotweilers, or debt collectors, from the North, but we have been instructed by Lloyd's. We started off getting killed as the debt collectors, and I think we've concluded by [taking] credit for having played a part in the rescue."

Dibb's fee income increased from £12 million to £36 million between 1989 and 1994, and virtually doubles again with the merger. But something more was needed to make that quantum leap. Knowles says: "I knew that we had traded for very many years on the strapline: 'We want to be a national commercial law firm'. That strapline was old, it was tired, and it wanted renewing." He set a target of becoming number one or two in each market in which the firm operates — except for London, where the aim was to be within the top five.

Knowles began to sound out firms with similar regional profiles, such as Hammond Suddards and Eversheds, and finally settled on Alsop Wilkinson, which had a fee income of about £32 million. "It became clear there was a compelling business case for the two firms to merge. They needed a presence in Yorkshire and the West Midlands, and wanted to be more corporately managed."

The merger strengthens Dibb Lupton's hand in the North of England, bringing fee income of £22 million in the North West alone. Offices in

Liverpool, Manchester, Bradford, Leeds and Sheffield are turning over £60 million between them. In London, the firm effectively doubles in size, hitting critical mass in areas such as corporate recovery, banking, and commercial litigation.

Further mergers are possible in London and in Birmingham — perceived as a weak link in the chain. Attempts will be made to boost the client base through expensive "lateral hires" — just as Benson was recruited from Turner Kenneth Brown. Knowles is keen to develop the firm internationally, building on Alsop's offices in Hong Kong and New York.

Knowles's ultimate goal is incorporation — ring-fencing Dibb Lupton in the same way that KPMG has isolated its audit practice. For tax reasons, the move cannot happen until 1999. For now, the firm will concentrate on expanding into areas such as human resources, insurance claims handling, and litigation support.

Knowles says: "There are a number of areas where we probably need to go higher up the food chain and get to the client before other forms of consultancies get to the client, and that is something that we are going to be developing. The merger, and the £100 million of fee income, gives us more scope to do that."

0990 29 29 29

1,000,000 Passengers,
have cut out the Travel Agent

Daily Scheduled Services

4 x Glasgow	£29
4 x Edinburgh	£29
3 x Aberdeen	£29
1 x Inverness	£29
3 x Amsterdam	£35
1 x Nice	£49
1 x Barcelona	£49

All fares single and return, subject to availability. The £100 supplement is Saturday night stay. From London Luton Airport.

easyJet

Call 0990 29 29 29 anytime

ATOL 2053



Dibb Lupton Alsop has panoramic offices in London Wall

Chayhie 150

ACCOUNTANCY

Faith, hope and charitable VAT

John Brown calls for a change in the application of VAT to release charities from an immense burden

It is once again the season of goodwill to all men, the season for giving and a season of faith; faith in the numerous charities that minister to those in need that they will not fail in their tasks while others enjoy festivities.

Although there may be a great outpouring of charitable works, the application of VAT to charities is somewhat less than charitable. For many charities, the incidence of irrecoverable VAT and the administration of the tax is a serious impediment. The monetary cost absorbs funds, often donated by the public without thought that an element will find its way to the Chancellor's coffers instead of being applied to the work of the charity, while the administration involves management resources that a charity can ill afford to provide.

In an earlier edition of the Customs and Excise leaflet on VAT and charities there was a warning that charities were bound by the same VAT requirements as any other business. It is a pity that this warning has been dropped, for in it was much truth. Perhaps it did not go far enough; charities are not only subject to all the rigours of VAT but with a degree of complexity unimaginable to business.



John Brown says the rules are too complex for charities when they are not: they are the taxable consideration for the supply of services.

A single charity may make supplies for consideration which include: transport by ambulance, first aid training for other voluntary organisations and for commercial enterprises, sales of products, the letting of surplus ground on

occasions, allowing a recycling business to place a skip on its land in return for a percentage of the value of waste paper dumped, the supply of accommodation, transport services in vehicles adapted for the handicapped, meals, the supply of staff, sales of goods on a 50-50 basis in charity shops, sale of donated goods and

"promises", sporting and grazing rights over land, consultancy services, sponsorship and advertising services, fundraising in variety, holiday accommodation, conference facilities and the exploitation of the charity's logo.

Now identify the correct VAT liability of the above examples as a Christmas afternoon occupation. Send your answers by fax on Christmas Day to HM Customs and Excise: they will not be at work but the charities will be — incurring expenditure with minimal hope of recovering the VAT thereon.

Contemplate the complexity of the above and compare it with the relative simplicity of applying VAT to a commercial business which has the resources to cope and the funds to pay professional advisers.

There are many reliefs for charities in VAT law, but their complexity is legion. Charities deserve a better deal. The immense burden of irrecoverable VAT should be reduced or eliminated; charities provide relief and they too should be relieved of the ever-increasing burden of VAT cost and administration. Perhaps the season of goodwill is the time to start thinking along such lines. We shall then have faith, hope and unencumbered charities.

John Brown is immediate past president of the VAT Practitioners Group.

Year of teacakes and whoopee cushions

IT HAS been a year of extraordinary activity and achievements, though, as often happens with the accountancy profession, not all of it went as planned. It is odd to think that only 12 months ago people were still worrying about whether or not the English ICA would merge with CIMA, the management accounting body. The news that the merger had fallen through seems now to come from a different era. In future, rationalisation within the accountancy profession is only likely to come about through disasters and one or more bodies running for cover to escape disasters.

The other change we have now taken on board is the idea that accountancy firms disclose financial information in the same way that companies have done since 1948. Only Price Waterhouse still stands alone, crossly refuting the idea. But even there, if you look at the latest edition of their in-house magazine, senior partner Ian Brindle is eager to trumpet achievements and growth. It cannot be long before even he produces some figures for the outside world.

But that is likely only after they have put together their US and European firms. Then we can expect mammoth disclosures of huge advances. Accountancy firms know the business of side-stepping their competitors these days.

They also know the advantages of keeping their options open as we approach a general election. The goal of becoming limited liability partnerships will remain. The confusion as some go for Jersey, smaller firms go for the Isle of Man and others hold on to see what the Government can offer in terms of an offshore UK limited liability partnership will continue. But the firms are doing well. They can cope with a degree of uncertainty. And in the long term, the prospect of some form of proportionate liability legislation is pretty certain.

The other members of the profession who must regard a coming general election with reasonable ease are the accountancy bodies. Despite squabbles over details, they have managed this year to put together a credible regulation system. It is still a plan rather than a done deal but that doesn't matter. If a Queen's Speech next year does contain proposals for some type of Securities and Exchange Commission to oversee the City and business, then the blueprint the profession has sorted out can easily be bolted on to any new structure. Even



ROBERT BRUCE

accountancy and legal firms can achieve such goals. Tax authorities are condemned to lumbering along in the profession's wake.

But probably the most hopeful change during the year has been the attitude towards financial reporting. There may be enormous problems ahead in trying to bring together global rules. But the collective understanding that figures to be disclosed cannot remain so long under wraps before publication is creating a tide of reform.

The more that companies want to put out figures to the market as close to real time as they can, the greater the pressure will be for more useful information to be produced faster and more accurately. Which is precisely what accountancy ought to be about.

Brute force of PW founder

THESE days Christmas Eve is the day when even accountants stop working and start the Christmas break. But it was not always thus. On Christmas Eve in 1849 Sammey Price opened up the partnership which we now know as Price Waterhouse.

And that is why next Tuesday sees the annual founder's lunch of the current partners at their Southwark Towers

NY OTHER BUSINESS

headquarters in London. Much jollity is expected. But it can only hope that they do not follow the example of their exiled founder.

Price liked nothing better during a luncheon than to wade in with both fists if an argument needed to be settled.

During the Fenian riots of the 1860s he turned up, to the office in a very dishevelled and somewhat bloodstained con-

dition", it was reported. So be on the safe side and make sure you avoid the precincts of London Bridge station next Tuesday evening.

Heavy words

SPARE a thought for the Christmas foreboding that has settled over members of the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC).

In its breakneck scamper to have its rules in order by early 1998 it has scheduled an extra meeting for January 6. This means that all IASC members are awaiting the thud of an agenda on their doorsteps between Christmas and the new year. This leaves them only a week, at best, to sort out their views. And IASC agendas currently tend to weigh in at around the 1,500-page mark.

"A copy of *War and Peace* would be shorter" is the moan of many a member. And probably more understandable.

Festive touch

SIR David Tweedie has been bringing Christmas cheer to the City this week. He has been spotted around London wearing a tie decorated with numerous jolly faces of Father Christmas on it. It must be something to do with the forthcoming standard on goodwill.

Court of Appeal

Law Report December 19 1996

Court of Appeal

Judge was not told of change

Vernon v Bosley

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Thorpe

Judgment December 13

When a civil case was conducted on the basis of evidence in relation to the plaintiff's psychiatric condition and the prognosis at the time of the trial and it was discovered before judgment was delivered that the prognosis had changed significantly, the altered position should have been disclosed to the defendant and the trial judge.

The distinction between actively misleading and passively standing by and letting the court being misled did not apply if that was found to be an error in a material fact which was an essential part of the case. In such a case it was also the duty of a barrister to advise his client to make disclosure to the court, and if the client refused, to withdraw from the case.

The Court of Appeal so held by a majority. Lord Justice Evans dissenting, when reducing to £541,493.70, the damages plus interest payable to the plaintiff, Peter Frazer Vernon, by the defendant, Katherine Sarah Bosley, after the rehearing of an appeal in which judgment had originally been delivered in March (The Times April 4).

The defendant's appeal was dismissed by a decision of Mr Justice Sedley on January 20, 1995, when he awarded the plaintiff £1,332,23.59 in way of damages and interest in respect of nervous shock or psychiatric injury sustained when he witnessed on August 13, 1982, unsuccessful attempts to rescue his two daughters from a motor car which had been driven into a river in South Wales by the defendant, who was employed by the plaintiff and his wife as a nanny.

Mr Dermot O'Brien, QC, and Mr Daniel Pearce-Higgins for the defendant; Mr David Blunt, QC and Mr Jonathan Marks, QC, for the plaintiff; Miss Diana Coton, QC, as amicus curiae.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that the defendant never disputed negligence but disputed that the plaintiff had suffered post traumatic stress disorder as opposed to a grief reaction, albeit an extreme one. She contended that the plaintiff's subsequent psychological problems were reactions to life's events, unconnected to the accident, such as the loss of his business, his inability to support employment and the break up of his marriage.

On March 29, 1996 their Lordships handed down draft judgments reducing the total award of damages to £643,425.56. Issues then arose as to the correct calculation of past and future loss of earnings, which affected the calculation of interest.

No final order of the court had been drawn up when, on April 17, 1996, Mr O'Brien received from an anonymous sender through the post copies of a judgment of Judge

McNaught given on January 6, 1995 in Gloucester County Court in proceedings between the plaintiff and his wife relating to their three children, and a copy of a judgment dismissing the plaintiff's appeal against Judge McNaught's judgment. Those judgments revealed that the evidence before those courts was that the plaintiff's psychiatric health had dramatically improved since September 1993 and that he was substantially fit and fully recovered.

Moreover, the defendant did not discharge that duty simply by accepting his legal adviser's advice. He could rely on such advice as negating mere risk, so that he would not be guilty of the crime of attempting to pervert the course of justice. But he was responsible for incorrect advice vis-à-vis the other party to the civil litigation. That was the general rule where legal advisers were acting within the scope of their actual or sensible authority.

In regard to the effect of the evidence of Dr G. L. Lloyd, a consultant psychiatrist, and Mr Douglas Mackay, a clinical psychologist, both of whom had given evidence before Mr Justice Sedley.

It appeared to the defendant's legal adviser that that evidence was materially different to the picture presented to Mr Justice Sedley and to the court of Appeal, in particular it might affect the judge's findings as to the plaintiff's state of health at the time of the judgment and the prognosis for the future. That would affect the level of general damages and also elements of future earnings.

Accordingly the defendant applied for the appeal to be listed for rehearing, for discovery and inspection of the relevant reports and evidence and for leave to take copies of them. The defendant waived any objection and leave was granted.

Their Lordships ruled in October that further evidence should be admitted since it was relevant to the plaintiff's mental condition at the time of Mr Justice Sedley's judgment.

His Lordship said that it was only because the fresh evidence was likely to have a significant impact on the amount of the judge's and their Lordships' award of damages that it was justifiable to admit it.

It could not possibly be a proper exercise of the court's discretion to reopen the appeal simply to give expert witnesses the opportunity to explain their evidence and the change that had come about in it.

From that evidence their Lordships concluded that the plaintiff had made a substantial recovery which had been progressive since September 1993 save for temporary deteriorations. While that could not be said to be a complete recovery because he required low level medication, it did not prevent him from functioning normally.

In his Lordship's judgment, the existence of Dr Lloyd's and Mr Mackay's later reports, notes of evidence and Judge McNaught's judgment should have been disclosed to the defendant's advisers before Mr Justice Sedley gave judgment.

His Lordship rejected the submission that the reports of Mr Mackay and Dr Lloyd were subject to litigation privilege. They were reports obtained from experts in proceedings under the Children Act 1989 and such reports were not privileged. The ratio decidendi of the case of *In re L (a Minor)* (1996)

if the client refused to accept that advice, then it was not as a rule for counsel to make the disclosure himself, but he could no longer continue to act.

If the plaintiff had not accepted the advice, then the non-appearance of counsel and solicitors before the judge would immediately have alerted the defendant's advisers, if not also the judge, that something was about. There was no doubt that Mr O'Brien would have doubt about that.

In regard to the effect of the evidence of Dr G. L. Lloyd, a consultant psychiatrist, and Mr Douglas Mackay, a clinical psychologist, both of whom had given evidence before Mr Justice Sedley.

It appeared to the defendant's legal adviser that that evidence was materially different to the picture presented to Mr Justice Sedley and to the court of Appeal, in particular it might affect the judge's findings as to the plaintiff's state of health at the time of the judgment and the prognosis for the future. That would affect the level of general damages and also elements of future earnings.

Accordingly the defendant applied for the appeal to be listed for rehearing, for discovery and inspection of the relevant reports and evidence and for leave to take copies of them. The defendant waived any objection and leave was granted.

His Lordship said that it was only because the fresh evidence was likely to have a significant impact on the amount of the judge's and their Lordships' award of damages that it was justifiable to admit it.

It could not possibly be a proper exercise of the court's discretion to reopen the appeal simply to give expert witnesses the opportunity to explain their evidence and the change that had come about in it.

From that evidence their Lordships concluded that the plaintiff had made a substantial recovery which had been progressive since September 1993 save for temporary deteriorations. While that could not be said to be a complete recovery because he required low level medication, it did not prevent him from functioning normally.

In his Lordship's judgment, the existence of Dr Lloyd's and Mr Mackay's later reports, notes of evidence and Judge McNaught's judgment should have been disclosed to the defendant's advisers before Mr Justice Sedley gave judgment.

His Lordship rejected the submission that the reports of Mr Mackay and Dr Lloyd were subject to litigation privilege. They were reports obtained from experts in proceedings under the Children Act 1989 and such reports were not privileged. The ratio decidendi of the case of *In re L (a Minor)* (1996)

if the client refused to accept that advice, then it was not as a rule for counsel to make the disclosure himself, but he could no longer continue to act.

If the plaintiff had not accepted the advice, then the non-appearance of counsel and solicitors before the judge would immediately have alerted the defendant's advisers, if not also the judge, that something was about. There was no doubt that Mr O'Brien would have doubt about that.

In regard to the effect of the evidence of Dr Lloyd's and Mr Mackay, a clinical psychologist, both of whom had given evidence before Mr Justice Sedley.

It appeared to the defendant's legal adviser that that evidence was materially different to the picture presented to Mr Justice Sedley and to the court of Appeal, in particular it might affect the judge's findings as to the plaintiff's state of health at the time of the judgment and the prognosis for the future. That would affect the level of general damages and also elements of future earnings.

Accordingly the defendant applied for the appeal to be listed for rehearing, for discovery and inspection of the relevant reports and evidence and for leave to take copies of them. The defendant waived any objection and leave was granted.

His Lordship rejected the submission that the reports of Mr Mackay and Dr Lloyd were subject to litigation privilege. They were reports obtained from experts in proceedings under the Children Act 1989 and such reports were not privileged. The ratio decidendi of the case of *In re L (a Minor)* (1996)

if the client refused to accept that advice, then it was not as a rule for counsel to make the disclosure himself, but he could no longer continue to act.

If the plaintiff had not accepted the advice, then the non-appearance of counsel and solicitors before the judge would immediately have alerted the defendant's advisers, if not also the judge, that something was about. There was no doubt that Mr O'Brien would have doubt about that.

In regard to the effect of the evidence of Dr Lloyd's and Mr Mackay, a clinical psychologist, both of whom had given evidence before Mr Justice Sedley.

It appeared to the defendant's legal adviser that that evidence was materially different to the picture presented to Mr Justice Sedley and to the court of Appeal, in particular it might affect the judge's findings as to the plaintiff's state of health at the time of the judgment and the prognosis for the future. That would affect the level of general damages and also elements of future earnings.

Accordingly the defendant applied for the appeal to be listed for rehearing, for discovery and inspection of the relevant reports and evidence and for leave to take copies of them. The defendant waived any objection and leave was granted.

His Lordship rejected the submission that the reports of Mr Mackay and Dr Lloyd were subject to litigation privilege. They were reports obtained from experts in proceedings under the Children Act 1989 and such reports were not privileged. The ratio decidendi of the case of *In re L (a Minor)* (1996)

if the client refused to accept that advice, then it was not as a rule for counsel to make the disclosure himself, but he could no longer continue to act.

If the plaintiff had not accepted the advice, then the non-appearance of counsel and solicitors before the judge would immediately have alerted the defendant's advisers, if not also the judge, that something was about. There was no doubt that Mr O'Brien would have doubt about that.

In regard to the effect of the evidence of Dr Lloyd's and Mr Mackay, a clinical psychologist, both of whom had given evidence before Mr Justice Sedley.

It appeared to the defendant's legal adviser that that evidence was materially different to the picture presented to Mr Justice Sedley and to the court of Appeal, in particular it might affect the judge's findings as to the plaintiff's state of health at the time of the judgment and the prognosis for the future. That would affect the level of general damages and also elements of future earnings.

Accordingly the defendant applied for the appeal to be listed for rehearing, for discovery and inspection of the relevant reports and evidence and for leave to take copies of them. The defendant waived any objection and leave was granted.

His Lordship rejected the submission that the reports of Mr Mackay and Dr Lloyd were subject to litigation privilege. They were reports obtained from experts in proceedings under the Children Act 1989 and such reports were not privileged. The ratio decidendi of the case of *In re L (a Minor)* (1996)

if the client refused to accept that advice, then it was not as a rule for counsel to make the disclosure himself, but he could no longer continue to act.

If the plaintiff had not accepted the advice, then the non-appearance of counsel and solicitors before the judge would immediately have alerted the defendant's advisers, if not also the judge, that something was about. There was no doubt that Mr O'Brien would have doubt about that.

In regard to the effect of the evidence of Dr Lloyd's and Mr Mackay, a clinical psychologist, both of whom had given evidence before Mr Justice Sedley.

It appeared to the defendant's legal adviser that that evidence was materially different to

Equities close near best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

مكتبة من الأصل



■ FILM 1

Frenetic action, an unrelenting soundtrack ... and Madonna: *Evita* proves to be all lung and no heart



■ FILM 2

... but, with Danny DeVito in top form, *Matilda* is a gleeful screen adaptation of Roald Dahl's story



■ FILM 3

... and the delightful 1964 Michel Legrand musical, *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*, is back



■ TOMORROW

The amazing return of Peter Green: Fleetwood Mac's founder tells of his journey to hell and back

CINEMA: Madonna emotes her little cotton socks off, but Geoff Brown is deafened rather than stirred by *Evita*

Desperately seeking earplugs

Something is wrong with a musical when you keep hoping everyone will shut up. In the film version of *Evita* there is very little silence. Just a few seconds appear here and there before Madonna's *Evita*, or Antonio Banderas, her Everyman partner, launch into song, or the crowds in the square shout in jubilation, or the army of electric guitars make war on the soundtrack.

We long for pools of contemplation, to ponder the progress of this Eva Duarte from rural Argentine urchin to glamorous, spotlight-hogging wife of the dictator Juan Domingo

know — to survive over two hours of impassioned mediocrity.

The choice of director also means this *Evita* had to be the way it is. Alan Parker does not walk on tip-toe. He wears hob-nailed boots: he pummels and pokes, right from the start. The start is dated 1952. News of Eva Perón's death interrupts a movie screening. Then comes the funeral. Massed mourners line the streets; a chorus wails "Requiem aeternam" a fat climax after only a few minutes. So it goes on at the same furious pitch as the story backtracks to *Evita*'s youth, her association with tango singer Magaldi (Jimmy Nail), and her ascent into the heart and bed of Colonel, later President, Perón (Jonathan Pryce).

This is history as rock opera. Complex events and characters get reduced to a trite narrative: a peasant girl gets rich and powerful and then, poor thing, she dies. Characters rarely interact with each other or us; they declaim to the camera, or, more precisely, they mime to the thunderous soundtrack recording. To be sure, there is excitement in the sumptuous orchestral mix and Parker's barrage of images. There is passion and commitment in Madonna's performance, especially when she stands on the balcony, arms outstretched, singing "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina".

But there is no intimacy, no tenderness, no time for reflection, no variety; everything is thumped home at the same level, everything is presented as spectacle. You may be dazzled here and there. But you learn nothing. More importantly, you feel nothing.

Oddly enough, *Evita* arrives in the same week as *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*, Jacques Demy's wonderful musical of 1964, restored and revived in all its pastel-hued splendour. Demy's characters



She loves you, and hopes you love her: the late, great Eva Perón achieves her goal of being played by Madonna

keep on singing too; every morsel of dialogue comes gift-wrapped with Michel Legrand's lilting pop music. But they sing to each other, and they sing of intimate, ordinary things that touch the heart: a lover absent in the Algerian war; a pregnancy; badgeiro dress with purple flowers that just happens to match the

directions to a paint shop. There are real people here, sharing feelings in a world we can grasp and understand.

Of course there is artifice in plenty. Gaze at the colours: the yellow cardigan of Catherine Deneuve, or the turquoise dress with purple flowers that just happens to match the

wallpaper; or the umbrellas in the shop owned by Deneuve's mother, Anne Vernon.

But the artifice, never stifling, has a point. By painting *Cherbourg* in fairy-tale hues, Demy and his talented colleagues are creating a romantic dream against which the characters' disappointments

to his own substitute marriage. Such is life, pretty colours or no.

The *Umbrellas of Cherbourg* has so many ingredients that most modern films have no interest in gathering. It has a sense of proportion and an integrated style: the thought of bombarding the viewer with theme-park attractions never struck Deneuve. Its designer Jean Rabier, or his art director Bernard Evin. The film has genuine charm, and a wistful brand of sentiment with enough specks of vinegar to stop things curdling into mush. Handsomely restored after circulating for too long in faded prints, it is the connoisseur's No 1 Christmas attraction.

You villainous sack of gobsmite! "You squirming worm of vomit!" This is Roald Dahl-speak, and there is enough of the master's boisterous anarchy and language left in the film of *Matilda*, to delight his young fans. Since this is an American adaptation, the story has been shifted to California, where we find Mara Wilson's precocious young heroine suffering under the thumb of two crass, self-regarding parents.

Father (Danny DeVito, who also directs) touches up wrecked cars and sells them to suckers. Mother (Rhea Perlman) is concerned only with her looks. So what if *Matilda*'s IQ reaches the stratosphere? Father knows best: "There's nothing you can't get from a book that you can't get from television faster!"

Observations like that appeal to adults. Other elements in the mix are more designed for a child's guffaws. Take Miss Trunchbull, the fearsome headmistress of Crumlin Hall, played by our own Pam Ferris. Trunchbull snarls out her insults, flexes her whip, and is strong enough to grab a child by the pigtail and hurl her far and wide. Luckily,

young audiences know that the bigger the crime, the bigger the consequence; and when it comes, DeVito does not disappoint.

No film could be further removed from the blandness of most family entertainment. Wilson, the appealing young player from *Miracle on 34th Street*, may smile sweetly, but she's not the kind of muppet who causes a wince. As director, DeVito keeps the visuals edgy, and the tone one of gleeful exaggeration. You can't make a successful Dahl adaptation without some mischief, and this delightful, prancing film has it in spades.

'Too much music'

Young film fans give their thoughts on ...

□ EVITA

Michelle Robertson, 22: Perhaps too much of the musical side, with an evident lack of direction in places. Still, you're guaranteed to leave your seat singing *Don't Cry for Me, Argentina*.

Anabel Chapman, 22: Good acting but, all in all, your typical banal Lloyd Webber musical.

Lorenza Rowell, 20: A spectacular but sentimental production in which Madonna and Antonio Banderas perform well.

Lizanne Rose, 22: As with most Lloyd Webber musicals there comes a point in the second half when all the songs sound exactly the same. *Don't Cry for Me* became especially irritating when Madonna started on her fourth rendition.

Evita
Odeon West End
PG, 133 mins
Anyone hear of pianissimo?
The Umbrellas of Cherbourg
Curzon Mayfair
PG, 91 mins
Enthralling musical revived
Matilda
Warner West End
PG, 98 mins
Anarchic lark from Roald Dahl's book

Perón. But there is simply no time. There is always a dance number to stage, a riot to ignite, or a fancy set to bombard with camera angles. And a star who demands attention like a spoilt child.

Did it have to be this way? In some ways, yes. Andrew Lloyd Webber's rock opera, originally created in 1976 as a concept record album, is through-composed, and the film does nothing to alter that. Lloyd Webber's notes, allied to Tim Rice's frequently banal lyrics, keep on coming; and it will take a hardened fan of the show — there are plenty, I

Now you can give a year of *The TLS* for just £19.75

Packed with wisdom, ideas and insights from some of the most astute writers of our time, *The TLS* is always a pleasure to read.

Now our new Brower Subscription makes it a pleasure to give as well. Available until 1st January 1997, *The TLS*

Brower Subscription costs just £19.75 — a discount of 17.5% off the UK cover price. Brower Subscribers receive one issue of *The TLS* every month, instead of the usual weekly copy from a standard subscription. It's enough to keep them in touch with culture and ideas at a price that's perfect for a gift.

Subscribe before the end of this year and we will send a confirmation of the gift to you or to the new subscriber.

Sharky's Insight Analysis: *Banky* Comings & Goings

I would like to make a gift of *The TLS* Brower Subscription to the person named below. I understand I save 17.5% on the UK cover price and pay just £19.75. Overseas subscribers save even more.

Gift Recipient's Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Your Name _____

Postcode _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Please send confirmation of the gift to me

Please send confirmation of the gift to the recipient

Please invoice me
 I enclose a cheque for £ _____ made payable to *The Times Literary Supplement*.
 Please charge my VISA/Mastercard/AMEX No. _____

Signature _____

Card expiry date _____

Please send to TLS Subscriptions, PO Box 14, Harold Hill, Romford RM3 8EQ.

Money back guarantee: full refund on all unsolicited issues or any issue. This offer is only open to new subscribers and does not apply to 1997.

If you do not want to receive mail from companies whose products and services we feel may be of interest to you,

"The first genuinely marvellous film of 1997."

Caroline Westbrook - Empire

"Hugely uplifting...Hicks has written a symphony to life which really does make beauty and truth indivisible"

The Daily Telegraph

"Shine is a great film! There are scenes here that take your breath away. It is one of the best films of the year, any year!"

Good Morning America

Winner of 9 Australian Film Institute Awards

Los Angeles & New York Film Critics Awards Best Actor

National Board of Review Best Film, Best Actor Best Supporting Actor



ADVANCE BOX OFFICE NOW OPEN

STARTS JAN 3 GATE

CURZON MAYFAIR

WARNER WEST END

REGENCY

CHICHA-CINEMA

ODEON HAYMARKET

KINGSTON

ODEON KENSINGTON

RITZY

CLIFFORD

CLIFFORD

Burbank

CLIFFORD



CHOICE 1
Courtney Pine
brings his *Modern
Day Jazz Stories*
to the South Bank

VENUE: Tonight at the
Queen Elizabeth Hall



CHOICE 2
An RSC debut for
Leslie Phillips,
as Falstaff in
The Merry Wives

VENUE: Opens tonight
at the RST, Stratford

THE TIMES ARTS



NEW VIDEOS
Eddie Murphy
finds a blackly
comic vehicle
in Wes Craven's
*Vampire in
Brooklyn*



NEW CDS
Felicity Lott
goes all French
and frothy on
a new recording
of Offenbach and
other bonbons

LONDON

BT CHRISTMAS CONCERT Bob Holman introduces an evening lavishly decorated with carols, gospel songs and festive musical offerings. Richard Cook conducts the Royal Choral Society and the London Concert Orchestra, with supporting performances by the tenor David Connelly, the soprano Cheryl Baker and the Royal Choral Society and the London Concert Orchestra. £12.50. Queen Elizabeth Hall, 200 Queen's Gate, SW7. (0171-589 8212). Tonight, 7.30pm. (5)

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA The orchestra's annual Christmas programme featuring Rossini's overture to *L'Italiana in Algeri*, Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto No 2* and Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*. The programme also includes Brahms' *Violin Concerto* and Bartók's *Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta*. The Hall, Queen's Hall, Clerk Street. (0171-498 2019). Tonight, 7.45pm. (5)

BOURNVILLE PIANO The youthful leading light of British jazz brings his programme of jazz and blues of music to the South Bank. The programme features tracks from his Mercury-nominated album, *Modern Day Jazz Stories*. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1. (0171-983 4242). 7.45pm. (5)

EDINBURGH In an atmospheric concert by candlelight, the BT Scottish Ensemble performs John Tavener's

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts
and entertainment
compiled by Marit Hargre

powerful new work, *Tears of the Angels*, dedicated to "the suffering people of the Balkans". The programme also features music by Bach, Corelli and Purcell. Queen's Hall, Clerk Street. (0171-498 2019). Tonight, 7.45pm. (5)

LEEDS Opening night of a second season for Opera North's new production of *Madame Butterfly*. Puccini's tragic tale of love and betrayal across the Pacific Ocean. Chinese soprano Chen Sungsang plays the role of the steadiest geisha Co-ko, with American tenor Mark Nicholson as the duplicitous Goro. The Royal Opera House, 200 Bank Street, EC2. (0171-638 8991). Tonight, 7.30pm. (5)

BOURNVILLE PIANO The youthful leading light of British jazz brings his programme of jazz and blues of music to the South Bank. The programme features tracks from his Mercury-nominated album, *Modern Day Jazz Stories*. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1. (0171-983 4242). 7.45pm. (5)

STRATFORD A belated Royal Shakespeare Company debut for Leslie Phillips, playing Falstaff, with Susannah York (also her dad), Edward Petherbridge and Joanna McCallum in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Ian Judge directs. Royal Shakespeare Theatre,

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingstone's assessment of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only
■ Some seats available
■ Seats at all prices

1890s. Greta Wider plays Sisi. Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ OLD WICKED SONGS: Bob Hoskins returns to the stage to play a Venetian music professor teaching a young woman (James Caffey) Eliza Moldenky directs Jon Marson's play. Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5058). Mat 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, 4pm

■ SWANWHITE: Imaginative British production of a story by George Sand. Harington Theatre, Grafton, Paddington, W1. (0171-494 0009).

■ THE MUSICAL: *Wicked* (0171-494 0029). Trafalgar, Covent Garden, WC2. (0171-887 8000). Tom Blau: Open Ended, new work from nine innovative playwrights (0171-378 1304).

■ THE WILD RUNNERS

Restored theatre, retooled, show the theatre after 200 years, the show back to celebrate as 250th anniversary. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-638 2200). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3.30pm.

■ LAUGHTER ON THE SAND

Floor: Neil Simon's funny account of working among a team of scrupulous for comedians and Caesar back in the

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 7.30pm. Sat 2.30pm.

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY

1940s. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1. (0

■ DANCE



Tchaikovsky all the way: English and Russian versions of *The Nutcracker* compete in London

■ THEATRE



Rocking the boat nicely: the National Theatre revives its fine staging of *Guys and Dolls*

THE TIMES ARTS

■ MUSIC



Judith Weir and other contemporary composers jostle with the greats in an intriguing touring programme

■ OFFER



Reduced prices for Bob Hoskins on stage in *Old Wicked Songs*: see Theatre Club panel

Rival Nutcrackers offer sweet contrasts

Christmas is the season of *Nutcrackers*, and London has two giants to choose from. On Monday English National Ballet opened its annual run at the Festival Hall, where its productions of the Yuletide classic have played to more than three million people since 1952, making it one of the most durable traditions in 20th-century ballet. Then on Tuesday at the Coliseum came the heavyweight foreigners, the Kirov, unveiling their St Petersburg *Nutcracker*, a grandchild of the original Maryinsky Theatre production from 1892.

The English *Nutcracker* is as pretty as a German Christmas card, twinkling snow carpeting the branches outside the Stahlbaum's solid middle-class home. Inside, Desmond Heeley's handsome set suggests cosy family get-togethers and festive high spirits.

Ben Stevenson's choreography does the job well enough in Act I's party scene. But once Clara and her Nutcracker Prince are transported to the Land of Snow,

DANCE: Debra Craine on the battle in London between English and Russian stagings of Tchaikovsky's classic

imagination moves up a notch. A flurry of lively formations for the corps de ballet of Snowflakes frames an attractive Torvill and Dean-themed routine for the Prince and the Snow Queen.

Act II honours belong to Heeley, though, whose flying pastry chefs wittily animate the Kingdom of Sweets. Stevenson's choreographic language doesn't match the setting for sparkle. But then neither did ENB's opening-night cast, led by Lisa Pavarini's Sugar Plum Fairy, Greg Horan's Prince and Diana Klimanova's Snow Queen, offer much 'more than efficiency' in dancing it.

This is ENB's farewell to the Festival Hall. Next December it will cross the Thames to the Coliseum with a new *Nutcracker* by Derek Dean.

The Kirov, meanwhile, is still performing Vainonen's 1934 pro-

duction, with later designs by Simon Virsaladze. This is a world far removed from the relaxed bonhomie of the ENB staging. The Kirov Stahlbaums are seriously upper-class, ensconced in a blue-blood's grand residence, with elegant architectural detailing and the finest of French furniture.

The children are well-behaved (much older, too), and regimented into formal dances, while their parents wear powdered wigs and the latest Napoleonic fashions. There is nothing remotely 'old German town' about Virsaladze's effusively aristocratic vision in pink. Yet as a period piece it holds a certain fascination.

The Russians present their *Nutcracker* in three acts, with Masha's dream for Clara, as she is known in Western stagings, standing alone as an act in itself. The transformation scene unfolds se-

dately and lacks the magic we have come to expect; while the Kingdom of Sweets has been replaced by Fairyland, a sunlit garden of summery botanical delights (a fantasy every bit as alluring as a chocolate box in the middle of a Russian winter).

Vainonen's production borrows too freely from Petipa and Ivanov, the great choreographers of Imperial Russia. The snow scene is straight out of Act II of *Swan Lake*. Ivanov's sublime poetry re-enacted in the rows of leafily tufted snowflakes — a starring moment for the corps de ballet almost ruined by the clump, clump, clump of heavy Russian pointe shoes on the Coliseum stage.

And the grand pas de deux, usually the exclusive province of the Sugar Plum Fairy (here called the Princess) and the Nutcracker Prince, turns into a reprise of

Petipa's Rose Adagio from *The Sleeping Beauty*, with the ballerina passing from partner to partner in a display of poised balances.

Diana Vishneva was the opening night Princess, a sweet dancer with a ready smile and one of the new young faces of the Kirov. Ultra-slim and long-limbed, she typifies the kind of dancer Oleg Vinogradov has encouraged in recent years — sapped of strength in the lower body but endowed with generous breadth in the upper body. Her Prince was Farouk Ruzimov, whom of extraordinary looks these days and looking more than a little humbled by the passing years. Elsewhere in the cast, alarm bells were sounding that the fabled Kirov technique is being sacrificed to Vinogradov's aesthetic dogma. Some of the spindly-legged dancers looked virtually anorexic.

The Kirov is accompanied by the Royal Ballet Sinfonia, which gave a rich and agile account of Tchaikovsky's score under Kirov conductor Boris Gruzin.



The Kirov *Nutcracker* at the Coliseum evokes a formal world far removed from ENB's relaxed Festival Hall production



Imelda Staunton, Henry Goodman, Clarke Peters and Joanne Ridings in Richard Eyre's exhilarating *Guys and Dolls*

Loesser is more

Will Richard Eyre's revival of *Guys and Dolls* prove as great a boon for the National Theatre and its audiences as his original production of the show at the same address 14 years ago? Don't ask silly questions. Those on the politically severe margins may object to the Rumyantsev crookstail — 'If a guy don't have a doll, who's gonna yell at him? A doll is a necessity' — but they can stay at home with their soy-bean roasts and boiled-water cocktails. Those with a bit of festivity in their spirits can corner the fun.

Frank Loesser's musical is preposterously good-natured. It is a tale of warm-hearted gamblers and well-meaning Salvationists which has for its hero a warm-hearted gambler

who becomes a well-meaning Salvationist. Off goes Sky Masterson to Havana with the earnest young tub-thumper, Sarah Brown, winning \$1,000 by pulling the most unlikely doll in New York. But the agreeable paradox is, of course, that he wins her and she wins him.

John Gunter fills the vast Olivier stage with the sort of sets it needs and too seldom gets: not just skyscrapers, but neon lights advertising everything from gum to Scotch, tiny kiosks, a dowdy bar and a grotty eatery offering (this being the 1950s) a French roast for 10 cents.

But it is the human decor that really matters, and that means hoods in mauve, coral

turquoise suits, and chorus girls dressed as anything from feathered hens to comically undulating socialites. The choreography, down to a nightclub tango that evolves into a riot, is sharper and more accomplished than I recall it being in 1982.

The principals do well, too. Clarke Peters is a wry, cool Sky who exudes easy charm, and Joanne Ridings a sweet and sensible Sarah capable of jumping, kicking and even wapping with the best of them.

But, as always, it is the subplot that proves the most fun. Back in 1952 Bob Hoskins was the gamblers' Nathan Detroit and Julia Mackenzie the fiancée who has waited to marry him for a decade and a half.

Now the duo are Henry Goodman and Imelda Staunton. He has the nervy, driven quality of a guy who must simultaneously organise an illegal crap-game, please Chicago gangsters, and convince his doll he is doing neither. She is a wonderful, wiggling blend of elf and troll, hilarious but touching as in a celebrated song, she describes the unved acrobatics in terms of colds, coughs, flu and hypochondriac symptoms galore.

But then so many numbers are so witty and so hummable. After *A Bushel and a Peck* comes *I've Never Been in Love Before*, and after *Luck Be a Lady* comes a rendering of *Down You're Rocking the Boat* rousingly led by Clive Rowe. Is there a more exhilarating show on offer this yuletide? If so, I don't know it.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

• This review appeared in later editions of The Times yesterday

Guys and Dolls

Oliver

The choreography, down to a nightclub tango that evolves into a riot, is sharper and more accomplished than I recall it being in 1982.

The principals do well, too. Clarke Peters is a wry, cool Sky who exudes easy charm, and Joanne Ridings a sweet and sensible Sarah capable of jumping, kicking and even wapping with the best of them.

But, as always, it is the subplot that proves the most fun. Back in 1952 Bob Hoskins was the gamblers' Nathan Detroit and Julia Mackenzie the fiancée who has waited to marry him for a decade and a half.

Now the duo are Henry Goodman and Imelda Staunton. He has the nervy, driven quality of a guy who must simultaneously organise an illegal crap-game, please Chicago gangsters, and convince his doll he is doing neither. She is a wonderful, wiggling blend of elf and troll, hilarious but touching as in a celebrated song, she describes the unved acrobatics in terms of colds, coughs, flu and hypochondriac symptoms galore.

But then so many numbers are so witty and so hummable. After *A Bushel and a Peck* comes *I've Never Been in Love Before*, and after *Luck Be a Lady* comes a rendering of *Down You're Rocking the Boat* rousingly led by Clive Rowe. Is there a more exhilarating show on offer this yuletide? If so, I don't know it.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

• This review appeared in later editions of The Times yesterday

Wily silly Willie

IT WAS a voice that resonated with authority on the edge of desperation and it was, above all, unmistakable. Therefore the voice of Willie Rushton was made for radio, and much of the radio broadcasting he did seemed made for him.

Rushton the man died last week, but Rushton the broadcaster was still alive last Saturday and again on Monday of this week, when Radio 4 correctly went ahead with the broadcast (and the repeat) of the last in the present series of *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue*.

The genius of Rushton was that he could be brilliantly silly, which is the point of the programme itself. This is the best comedy in radio, a half-hour of pointless verbal gymnastics, combining revue, satire and seaside double entendre in a grand tradition that goes back to *Admiral M&M* and *The Goon Show*.

Ostensibly a panel game, *I'm Sorry* is chaired by Humphrey Lyttelton: when the word 'urbane' entered the lan-

guage, Lyttelton was put on earth to save us looking it up. But it was Rushton whose ability as a lateral thinker and re-moulder of language defined the programme. This week there was a round in which the panel had to suggest titles that would please the manufacturers of biscuits. Rushton suggested *The Singing Digestive*.

In an absorbing Sunday Feature — *The Road to Ballina*, Jakko Kaksik, once the guitarist with the pop group Level 42, traced in music his own confused roots (he was adopted by Polish-French parents) and the roots of his lost mother, an Irish singer from Ballina. Kaksik's musical journey illustrated, without ever straining to do so, the tumult of postwar Europe and its shaping of a generation.

PETER BARNARD

LONDON CONCERTS

Good, evil and whoops of joy

BCMG/Harding QEH

equilibrium by Daniel Harding, directing a fine performance by these accomplished players.

David Lang's *My Evil Twin* is said by its composer explicitly to embody the interaction of opposing impulses, good and bad (hence the title). 'Happy melodies' supposedly struggle against 'angry walls' of

sound", but to these ears there was little distinction between the two types of incessant ostinati.

A model of how to prevent motivic ideas outstaying their welcome is provided by Judith Weir's miniature opera *The Consolations of Scholarship*. Drawing on Chinese sources and to some extent the style of the ancient Yuan drama, the work is exemplary in its economical handling of means to expressive ends.

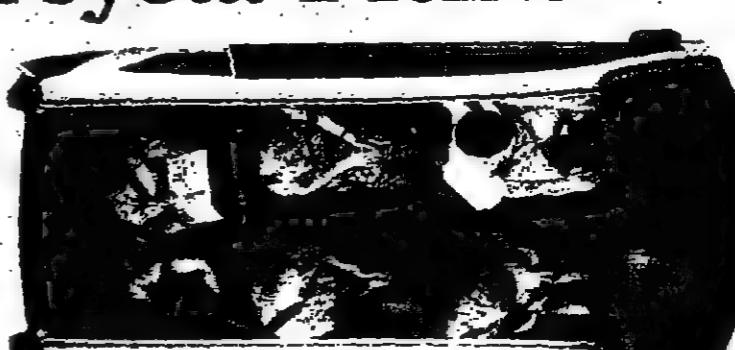
From a pool of a mere nine instruments, an oboe and a clarinet combine in a sinuous melody that is the distilled essence of the alluring but implacable face of the Orient. Another scene incorporates a patter song and a dialogue, complete with conspiratorial asides — all delivered by the admirable Mary King, whose striking of mock-horror attitudes provided all the staging needed.

The performance of Schoenberg's Chamber Symphony No 1 that followed not only completed the symmetry of the programme, but also brought it to an extraordinary end. The way Harding and his players integrated the late Romantic aspects (redolent of Wagner's *Siegfried* Idyll at times) with the more rigorous contrapuntal discourse in their surging, impulsive account, was quite remarkable. The conclusion was greeted with spontaneous whoops of joy. Even the players looked exhilarated.

BARRY MILLINGTON

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION — THE TIMES

Win a £17,200 Toyota Picnic FFV



The Times offers readers the chance to win every family's dream car — the new Toyota Picnic Family Fun Vehicle which will be going on sale in the UK for the first time in January. The six-seater has been designed to make travelling with children a more comfortable experience.

While working on the new car's development, Toyota commissioned a report by a leading psychologist to investigate family travel. The report identified that although it may not be possible to change children's behaviour, there are certain fundamentals that ensure more peaceful journeys.

The Toyota Picnic Family Fun Vehicle has a list of impressive features including six individual seats, all with 3-point seat belts, giving children their own space to minimise the risk of irritation. There are a total of 17 different seat combinations

and a power outlet in the rear — essential for the children's personal stereo. Safety features include dual air bags, side impact beams, crumple zones and impact energy absorbing body frame structure.

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win the Toyota Picnic collect four differently numbered tokens from the seven appearing in *The Times* between Dec 14-21, 1996. Send them with the completed entry form which will be published again on Saturday, along with the terms and conditions, to: *The Times* Toyota Picnic Competition, Ashentree Court, London EC8 8NG.

Closing date for entries is first post Friday January 17, 1997.

THE TIMES
TOYOTA
picnic
TOKEN 5

CHANGING TIMES

THEATRE CLUB

one (normally £5 to £12) for Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*. Tel 01865 798600

SALISBURY

Playhouse
Jan 16-Feb 3

• TICKETS £6 (normally £12.50) to Tues or Thurs evening performances of *Rope*, by Patrick Hamilton. Tel 01722 501333

EDINBURGH

Festival Theatre
Jan 10-11

• Save £3 on best stall or dress circle seats (normally £13.50 to £15.50) to see *Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo*. Tel 0131 529 6000

• CLUB members can enjoy big savings on tickets to West End

• TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50 inside payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name and address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 264, Colchester CO2 5UT, or telephone 01206 225145 using your credit card. For general inquiries call 0171-337 9673

shows this Christmas. All offers are subject to availability

Dec 24 & 26 (2.30pm). Garrick Theatre. *As Inspector Calls*. Tickets £12.50 (normally up to £24). Tel 0171-494 5085

Dec 24 & 26 (2.30pm). Gielgud Theatre. *Old Wicked Songs*. £10 (normally up to £24). Tel 0171-494 5085

Dec 24, 26, 27, Jan 2 (8pm); Dec 31, Jan 1-2 (7.45pm). Phoenix Theatre. *Blood Brothers*. £16 (normally £22.50). Tel 0171-369 1733

Dec 23-Jan 4 (excluding Sat evenings). Whitehall Theatre. *Cash on Delivery*. £10 (normally £22). Tel 0171-369 1735

Dec 23, 26, 30, 31, Jan 2 (7.30pm); Dec 24, 27, Jan 2 (8pm). Old Vic. *An Ideal Husband*. Two for the price of one (normally £24). Tel 0171-928 7616

Dec 23-24 (8pm). Lyric Theatre. *By Jeeves*. £20 (normally £25). Tel 0171-494 5045

Dec 23-24 (8pm). Apollo Victoria. *Starlight Express*. £20 (normally £27). Tel 0171-914-1660

Dec 23-24 (8pm). Adelphi Theatre. *Sunset Boulevard*. £20 (normally £23.50). Tel 0171-344 0055

• The Times offers readers the chance to win every family's dream car — the new Toyota Picnic Family Fun Vehicle which will be going on sale in the UK for the first time in January. The six-seater has been designed to make travelling with children a more comfortable experience.

While working on the new car's development, Toyota commissioned a report by a leading psychologist to investigate family travel. The report identified that although it may not be possible to change children's behaviour, there are certain fundamentals that ensure more peaceful journeys.

The Toyota Picnic Family Fun Vehicle has a list of impressive features including six individual seats, all with 3-point seat belts, giving children their own space to minimise the risk of irritation. There are a total of 17 different seat combinations

A passion deeply implanted in the human breast

Roger Scruton examines the link between hunting and the life of the countryside

This is a curious book, latest in a long tradition of curious books, from Isaac Walton's *Compleat Angler* to Siegfried Sassoon's *Memoirs of a Fox-hunting Man*, dedicated to the rural pursuits of the eccentric Englishmen. Some of the most imaginative prose in the English language has emerged from this tradition — witness Surtees, Trollope and T. H. White; there is no doubt that our perception of the English countryside and its meaning has been shaped beyond measure by those who have tried to capture in words the mysterious joys of hunting, shooting and fishing.

The sportsman, unlike the farmer, looks on the countryside as an end in itself rather than a means of profit. His soul runs out into woods and streams and fields with the untroubled joy of a child, and around his immediate aim of catching fish, fowl or fox, there grows a passionate love of the natural world, a sense of his own situation within it, and a vivid attachment to a place and a time.

Those are the feelings that Laurence Catlow tries to convey in this diary of his sporting year in Cumbria, where he is resident Classics master at a minor public school. It is the work of a very unmodern person, with a romantic attitude to nature. The diary gives

CONFESIONS OF A SHOOTING FISHING MAN
By Laurence Catlow
Merlin Unwin Books, £17.99
ISBN 1 873674 24 4

no evidence whatsoever of human relationships, other than those which are the normal lot of an old-fashioned bachelor schoolmaster. Apart from wine and fives, Catlow's emotions are entirely expended on the natural world, which he describes with the same conviction of its miraculous and consoling character as an Edward Thomas or a Richard Jefferies.

His detailed and loving descriptions of fishing are particularly good, and will be a joy to anyone who shares his passion. His defiant celebration of the act of killing fish and birds in quantities that far surpass his gastronomic capacity may lose him a few readers. But he makes quite clear that they are not the readers he would want. If you are looking for a Christmas present for a friend who shoots or fishes, then you need look no further than this book.



Distinguishing between the values of human and animal life: hunters in Scotland with their kill

But Catlow has another and deeper purpose, besides that of sharing his sporting pleasures. He is a pious Catholic who believes in an absolute distinction between human and animal life. It is, in his view, not just wrong but in some way sinful to extend the protection afforded to people, and to behave as though animals had some absolute right to life and

liberty of the God-given kind that we enjoy. He is therefore deeply vexed by the new urban morality that seeks to forbid us from killing animals, or from taking pleasure in the warm pursuit of them. I do not share Catlow's passion for shooting and fishing, although I find nothing strange in the fact that these activities should be the high point of someone's life, and the object of powerful religious feelings. I think he is right, and there is no sound moral reason for condemning most normal fieldsports. But I wonder how many opponents would be persuaded by his approach, depending as it does on religious and metaphysical convictions which are, for the mass of urban people, no longer available? Catlow himself has some difficulty

in reconciling his tender feelings towards his dog with a philosophy that denies that a dog is capable of either understanding such feelings or returning them.

The issue is an important one, for two reasons. First, the life of our countryside — both wildlife and human life — is intimately bound up with the hunting of wild animals. Any attempt to forbid hunting will unravel centuries of careful management, and destroy both the social and the natural ecology of our landscape. Secondly, there are many people who either don't see this, or don't care about it, or who are so deeply opposed to killing (or at least to the killing of certain species in certain ways) that they are happy to encourage adverse legislation and to let the future look after itself.

The Labour Party expressly condemns angling, an activity which Catlow's vivid descriptions show to involve intense and long-drawn-out suffering. But it promises, with characteristic inconsistency, "a free vote to ban hunting". This interesting piece of Newspeak presumably means a vote in which Labour MPs are free to vote according to their conscience, provided their conscience favours a ban. As someone

Made by
nothing
stronger
than
necessity

Enoch Powell analyses a biblical translation

The earth was welter and waste

GENESIS
Translation and
Commentary
By Robert Alter
Norton, £18.95
ISBN 0 393 03981 1

Biblical Hebrew itself was a language in process of creation and the author claims to distinguish between the earlier and later parts of Genesis in a work which spans both the pre-exilic and the post-exilic periods. He even insists on reproducing a Hebrew pun, Adam, with Adama, "earth". "We cannot be free," Alter protests, "to translate a word here one way and there another; but neither can we insist upon reproducing a Hebrew pun and rendering Adam as 'soil'."

Perhaps after all we should rest content to treat the King James (Tyndale) Genesis as an event in its own right, for all its failure to represent perfectly the characteristics of the Hebrew original. It had its own effect upon the English language of its day — indeed, or the present day.

Alter's translation makes the book essentially a tool for better comprehension of the Hebrew, a function which is enhanced by the footnotes attached to the actual translation. Wherever the reader is likely to be confronted by a puzzle, he will generally find it interpreted in an explanatory footnote. In fact, the translation could be useful in its own right, apart from the light which it casts upon the difficulties, as an assistance in the process of translation itself.

I will leave the last word, however, to the translator: "Although Genesis looks forward to its sequel, it stands as a book, inviting our attention as an audience that follows the tale from beginning to end."



Adam and Eve Banished from Paradise by Masaccio (1401-28), in Florence

Elusive faith

Claire Messud

THE GARDENS OF LIGHT
By Amin Maalouf
Quartet, £15
ISBN 0 7043 7105

AMIN MAALOUF, who won the Prix Goncourt in 1993, weaves tapestries of intrigue that illuminate a broader historical moment. He typically takes as his focus an eminent life of the lost Arab world, such as Omar Khayyam or Leo Africanus. In *The Gardens of Light*, the eminence in question is Mani, founder and prophet of Manicheism, a faith whose tenets have been all but lost, and whose heritage is but a derogatory adjective in our current vocabulary.

Mani lived in the 3rd century AD in Persia, in what was then the Sasanian Empire, a powerful Eastern dynasty often at war with the Romans. His is a world overlooked by Western history books, and Maalouf must conjure not only an alien society, but Mani's tortured place in it.

Maalouf, in his engaging prose, goes a considerable way towards restoring Mani to us. The novel traces his Pashian heritage; his miserable youth in the clutches of an all-male Christian cult; the nomadic beginnings of his ministry; and his complex relationship to the Sasanian rulers. It bears witness to his torture and death at the hands of those same leaders in AD 274.

What proves more elusive, however, is the substance of Mani's faith. He renounced all possessions, he promoted tol-

erance between religions and races, he was a pacifist, he advocated the beautiful. We learn that he took his prophecy from an inner voice that he called his "Twin". But somehow, Mani's doctrine fails to emerge in Maalouf's otherwise colourfully imagined account. As a result, Mani the man remains cloudy, his actions not entirely explicable and his grim fate only moderately affecting. Unsure of what Mani's teachings actually entailed, the contemporary reader cannot know what was lost with their eradication.

IN THIS respect, *The Gardens of Light* is somewhat disappointing: its omissions lie not in the external details of a foreign world — in this, Maalouf is as eloquent as ever — but in its spiritual core. It ought, perhaps, to be enough to know that Mani was silenced for propounding a compassionate vision; but that is a tragedy so common in man's history that one needs, in the end, to know more.

If you can find a novel's truth



Lahore Station by Janina Slater, from *Quest for Kim*

British war effort against the Boers. But he retained enough affection for India to describe its rich culture, with its energy and vivid colour. As a result, even Edward Said, in his indefatigable watch for the heinous sin of Orientalism, admits that — in this case, at least — Kipling failed to bend his aesthetic vision to any overt political agenda.

Hopkirk is not too concerned with such silly debates, it is true. His object is to follow Kim's itinerary — from Lahore to Varanasi and up into the

Angus Wilson — that, in Kipling's day, when his father John was curator, the museum itself was located elsewhere.

So Hopkirk proceeds through the book's locations — Mahbub Ali's horse bazaar (never quite pinned down), Lahore railway station and the "te-rain", Kim's St Xavier in Purbis, identified as La Martinière College in Lucknow, the only school in the British Empire to have won baton honours (for its pupils' role in the 1857 Mutiny), and so on.

With Kim's characters, Hopkirk is in his element. Thus Colonel Creighton, the pukka spy chief who recruits Kim into the Great Game, is based on Colonel Thomas Montgomerie, who ran the Survey of India. Mahbub Ali existed in real life, and Lurgan Sahib, the mysterious Simla shop-keeper, is authenticated as A. M. Jacob, who sold the 184.5 carat Victoria diamond, which is now valued at £250 million, to the Nizam of Hyderabad.

It pays, of course, to know the original book. But then many people clearly do. As Hopkirk tells us in one of his many illuminating asides, *Kim* still sells 1,000 copies a week in various editions. Occasionally old-fashioned, never dull, *Quest for Kim* — with its choice illustrations by Janina Slater — is a Murray guide to rank among the best.

ANDREW LYCETT

Philip Howard on the survival of the stories that more than bear retelling

Made by nothing stronger than necessity

This book describes in lurid detail double infanticide by a mother with combat knife, serial murder by combustible poison, allegations of rape by a stepmother, an *X-Files* death from the through battery by wild horses, and resurrection from the dead. In other words, this sounds like an everyday story of television listings before the 9 o'clock watershed. But it is better than that. And it is worth asking why these primitive tragedies still fascinate us in our different worlds 25 centuries later.

For they scream across 3,000 years. A week seldom passes without a performance of one of them in Greek or English. In the National Theatre or a school hall. Derek Walcott won the Nobel Prize for Literature for *Omeros*, his recasting of the Homeric legends in Caribbean dress. By this golden jubilee year, the first Penguin Classic, *The Odyssey* translated by E. V. Rieu, has overtaken *Lady Chatterley's Lover* as Penguin's biggest best-seller.

How can this be? How can Euripides live in the age of *EastEnders*? Well, one reason is the huge growth in the study of Classics in translation that has accompanied the decline of compulsory Greek and Latin language in

ALCESTIS
And Other Plays
By Euripides
Translated by John Davie
Introduction and notes
by Richard Rutherford
Penguin Classics, £9.99
ISBN 0 13 51910 86 42

schools and universities. Another reason is the revival of interest by non-academic amateurs in their heritage. But the main reason is that these tragedies actually are very good, in spite of the fact that people have been saying they are very good for so many centuries. Anybody knows that who has lately seen Derek Jacobi play Oedipus or Diana Rigg as Medea.

The plays deal with basic instincts. And Euripides, although described as a misogynist by contemporaries, was a proto-feminist. He wrote the best women's parts for the theatre before Racine, though on his stage they were played by men in masks and high heels. If Shakespeare had known more Greek, I would have suspected that he had read the *Hippolytus* before writing the Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet*. Medea's Nurse is the same sex-obsessed old gossip who helps to trigger tragedy.

This year's new translations of the *Medea*, *Hippolytus*, *Alcestis* and *The Children of Hercules* replace the 1953 Penguin Classics for two of the plays. They incorporate the latest scholarship, such as W. S. Barret's majestic edition of the *Hippolytus* (OUP, £25). The book's selections of text and meaning are state-of-the-art scholarly, which is not surprising since the translator is Head of Classics at St Paul's School.

The notes are psychologically shrewd: once she has confessed her guilty love, Medea can speak more freely and with more self-control. This translation is more clear than old-fashioned prose, where its predecessor was into blank verse and other verse for the chorus. For example, in the *Medea* the Chorus guess that Medea is about to slay her children, and burst into a hymn about the griefs of mothers. John Davie's translation renders its opening: "Many times are now I have entertained thoughts more subtle and engaged in arguments more weighty than the female sex should pursue." As an exercise in old-fashioned constrict, mark this alpha plus. But to stage the *Medea*, you should use one of the less accurate but more natural translations such as the one played by the Actors of Dionysus.



Was Euripides a misogynist — or a proto-feminist? Early illustration of Medea in a 19th-century reproduction

Other Penguin Classics in their jubilee year include Aristotle's *Poetics*, the first work of tragic criticism, which attacks the *Medea* for its arbitrary resolution by divine intervention. You can read in English Appian's history of *The Civil Wars*, the fiery furnace that turned Rome from hic-hoc-hocville into a world empire. His pretty, witty version of the *Iliad* into rhyming limerick pentameter made Pope's fortune. And the new sub-set of Penguin Classics of classic authors in translation has started with promising volumes of Homer, Virgil, Horace and Martial. Homer, edited by George Steiner, gives an eclectic run of versions from Chaucer and Shakespeare to Christopher Logue and Oliver Taplin from Anglo-Norman to 20th-century planetary English.

Translation is an art that mixes poetry with history and scholarship. It still burns brighter in the many voices of English than anywhere else. For proof, see *Collected Translations* by C. H. Sisson (Carcanet, £14.95). Sisson is the choice and master poet-translator of this generation. His versions of Horace's *Arte Poetica*, Paul Valéry and Heine are poems in their own right, as well as postern gates into the magic garden of European literature.

Niceness is not enough

When did it all go wrong? Most of us have an answer, implicit or explicit, that colours everything else. Chesterton and Belloc lamented the Reformation. One sort of English Marxist despaired at the Restoration of 1660, the nemesis of 1640s antinomianism; another was bewailed the 1780s, the immiseration of the working class in the Industrial Revolution. Conservatives sometimes let slip heretical views about 1832, seen as the beginning of a slippery democratic slope.

The 20th century, of course, has been lived in the long shadow of 1917; and as we emerge from that experience, our perspective on our past subtlety shifts too. More and more, we are forced to confront the consequences — non-negotiable, irreversible, protean — of 1776.

The English traditionally avoided thinking seriously about their greatest deceit by blaming individuals: the admirals and generals (indecisive); George III (rigid); and, above all, the Prime Minister. Yet what was there to say against Lord North? He had no obvious vices. He was modest, industrious, managerial. He had very considerable political skills, and powers of survival equal to the Younger Pitt or Lord Liverpool. He had, no doctrine or design to im-

pose on his age at any cost. So historians typically ignored him: Lord North, not Bonaparte, became "the Unknown Prime Minister".

Whiteley's scholarly rehabilitation presents him as a spokesman for a pragmatic culture that put prosperity first. North echoed the pre-

cept of Britain as a kind of parent and friend" was his policy on the colonies. So why did it all go wrong?

This, the best book on North to date, shows us a politician with negative virtues: "his tendency to concentrate on detail rather than the overall picture". He was, says Whiteley, "inflexible when compromise might still have been possible and accommodating when it was too late".

Yet perhaps detailed and strategic remedies were equally vain: no smooth words at Westminster, no clever footwork in Downing Street, could have prevented the American volcano from erupting. Historians now see how much more there was to that revolution than reactions to innovations in British policy. Against these mounting pressures, niceness was not enough.

These leading figures produced a distinctive political world, preoccupied with the Court and the House of Commons, regarding public opinion as an unwelcome intrusion, and treating major issues of public principle as problems to be managed.

Whiteley's North was not driven by ambition or avarice. His reputation as an "extreme conservative" was unjustified, and derived from the mud randomly thrown in the Wilkes affair. Let America

see the parallels to this story. Never again will things go disastrously wrong in our foreign policy. Decent, honourable prime ministers will never again be overwhelmed by the proliferating consequences of a drive to create a federal union out of a collection of independent states. We are lucky to live in modern times, in which history does not repeat itself.

Inventiveness at a premium

FOR ME, the book of the year was always going to be T.S. Eliot's unpublished poetry, *Inventions of the March Hare* (Faber, £30). The invention is that of the style and forms of the *Purloined* and 1920 poems. The annotation by Christopher Ricks is denser than that to any other poetry, including Shakespeare. Such a mass of sources invites incredulity — could anyone have so much in mind? — and yet all but one or two of them, individually considered, are convincing and illuminating.

Sadly, many commentators were more interested in the old and marginal argument about whether Eliot was anti-Semitic — raked over by Anthony Julius in his book *T.S. Eliot: Anti-Semitism and Literary Form* (Cambridge, £30) — than in reading his poems.

Christopher Ricks also published the best literary criticism of the year with *Essays in Appreciation* (Oxford, £25). No one reads better.

SEBASTIAN CARTER, of the Rampant Lions press, was born in 1941 on the day that *Burnt Norton*, the first of Eliot's *Four Quartets*, appeared as a pamphlet. That booklet was smaller than even the prospectus for Carter's large quarto edition of the *Quartets*, which could hardly be further removed from the days of war-economy stringencies.

Issued in parts, the *Quartets* were avidly read during the war, as bulletins about the culture people were fighting to preserve. Eliot, by then an intellectual beacon, abandoned the obscurantism of *The Waste Land*, and set down his explanation of spiritual riddles as clearly as he could. Like the concerts at the National Gallery, this was demanding art for a large audience. At a sitting each, the *Quartets* were popular and often reprinted.

Carter's edition has been hand-set on expansive pages of heavy mould-made paper. Part-titles are printed with colours suggestive of the *Quartets* (rather tenuous) relationship to the four elements, and the boards are



BIBLIOMANE

tion. The Rampant Lions edition is limited to 226 copies, price £195 (tel 01954 231003).

EVEN IF you don't buy a book of poems from one decade to the next, try Christopher Reid's *Expanded Universes* (Faber, £6.99) — full of whimsy, wiles and trills. *Two Dogs Barking on a Pub Roof*: You're David and Goliath, Peter and the Wolf, Robin Hood and his Sheriff, Max and Jeff — any ding-donging duo from history or myth that's come to stand as a

hieroglyph, for eternal freedom, non-stop strife, the old Manichean fixicuts

without which there'd be no story, no life,

and the whole cycle of birth,

death, birth, graft, grief and death

would amount to so much waste of puff.

JIM McCUE

NEW AUTHORS
PUBLISH YOUR WORK
ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED:
Fiction, Non-Fiction, Biographies,
Religious Poetry, Children's
AUTHORS WORLDWIDE INVITED
WE SEND YOUR WORK FREE
MINERVA PRESS
TELE: 01954 231003

Sect that survived despite offending the pagans

Karen Armstrong is enlightened by a fresh look at an enduring faith

A NEW HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY
By Vivian Green
Alan Sutton, £20
ISBN 0 7509 1271 5

meaningless squabbles, instead of expressing — in a way quite peculiar to Christianity — the extreme difficulty of speaking and thinking about our experience of the divine. We do not, therefore, in Green's account, really understand the reasons for the Eastern churches' rejection of the Council of Chalcedon, for the controversy in Greek Orthodoxy about the validity of icons, nor do we see why the Eastern and Western churches were in such fierce and passionate dispute about the *filioque* clause in the Creed.

Green also falls into the trap of regarding Christianity as an essentially Western faith. Once Christianity has been established in Europe, he implies that the Eastern churches are little more than a sideshow; whereas there is a good case for arguing that, at least until the 12th century, it was the other way around. Indeed, this myopia about other traditions has been one of the greatest flaws of Western Christianity. This failing, together with the Western tendency to emphasise external matters of dogma and discipline more than spirituality, can also be seen as major causes of Christianity's difficulties in today's pluralistic world.



Detail of Giotto's Nativity in the Scrovegni Chapel, Padua

BOXING DAY BOOKS

Marianne Wiggins on Jeanette Winterson's *Cut Symmetries*
Helen Dunmore on tales of childhood
Antonia Fraser on the crimes and intrigues at the Court of James I

ACADEMICS

HOW HAS THE RESEARCH ASSESSMENT EXERCISE AFFECTED YOUR FUTURE?

The Times Higher Education Supplement publishes the 1996 Research Assessment in full.

We will have a 16-page pullout detailing:

- the rankings for each of 2,896 departments in UK universities, divided into 69 subject areas.
- scores for all 192 HE institutions in the UK.
- a league table of the overall results for universities and colleges.
- a league table of disciplines — which score most highly.

Out Tomorrow

HIGHER
EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT

RACING TRIUMPH HURDLE FAVOURITE HAS STRESS FRACTURE

Bellator ruled out for season by leg injury

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

BELLATOR, the leading juvenile hurdler, has been ruled out for the rest of the season because of a leg injury. The Toby Balding-trained three-year-old stamped himself as 8-1 ante-post favourite for the Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham next March, but the Weyhill trainer said last night: 'Bellator has suffered a stress fracture of the near-fore cannon bone. It is mendable, but he is out for the season.'

Bellator, a winning stayer on the Flat, created a favourable impression with easy wins at Wetherby and Aintree, on the latter occasion beating Noble Lord by 15 lengths.

The poor record of last season's Cheltenham Festival winners continued yesterday when Naithen Lad, winner of the Sun Alliance Chase in March, beat only one horse home on his seasonal reappearance — just over a week before he is due to line up for the Pertemps King George VI Chase at Kempton.

Only three horses who were successful at last season's festival — Urubande, Traingot

and Challenger Du Luc — have returned to the winner's enclosure this term, while the list of Cheltenham horses to have fallen by the wayside, through injury or defeat grows longer by the day.

Naithen Lad, who was giving weight away to most of his rivals in the Astbury Hurdle

Nap: RIVER MANDATE
(3.10 Towcester)
Next best: Jacob's Wife
(2.10 Towcester)

Handicap Hurdle at Bangor, travelled well for much of the race but weakened quickly three flights out.

However, Jenny Pitman was far from despondent last night and hopes the talented second-season chaser will line up for Boxing Day's feature race. 'If he is all right in the morning, then it will be Kempton,' she said.

'I have had horses with a

great deal less ability than Naithen Lad jump to the front upstages in the King George and I think the race will be run to suit him. I would certainly like him to go there. Where else can you go?'

She reasoned: 'Run him in handicaps and he gets muddled. He's won on a flat track before over distances short of his best and he is a chaser now. Yesterday, Rough Quest won a hurdle in novice company. Mine was in a handicap giving away jumps of weight.'

Reflecting on Naithen Lad's run yesterday, she added: 'I thought he travelled well until turning for home when he got tired, which he was entitled to do because it was a long time since he ran. He had an alternative seven-hour round trip to Haydock on Saturday [when the meeting was cancelled because of frost] and, as a result, missed a serious bit of work on Sunday.'

Mrs Pitman said: 'It is heartbreaking they could not run the Haydock race [the Tommy Whittle Chase] last Sunday. The bookmakers say it is difficult to get staff in on Sundays at short notice but when the meeting was abandoned at 11am on Saturday that is hardly an excuse.'

William Hill left Naithen Lad unchanged on 16-1, but reported support for Rough Quest, who has also had his Cheltenham Gold Cup odds cut from 12-1 to 9-1. The King George betting is 6-4 on One Man, 4-1 (from 5-1) Rough Quest, 5-1 Sound Man, 10-1 Barton Bank, 12-1 Strong Promise, Trying Again and Mr Mulligan.

The lure of Cheltenham in March remains as strong as ever and two trainers at Bangor were more than happy to pencil in runners for the three-day meeting.

David Candolfo declared Around The Gale a definite Cheltenham horse who would probably be aimed at the Criterium after the five-year-old won the St Helens Ford Novices' Chase with ease. The fine success of Freddie Muck in Naithen Lad's race had Nigel Twiston-Davies thinking in terms of the Gold Cup Final.



Edgemoor Prince and Maguire jump the last on their way to victory at a mist-shrouded Exeter yesterday

THUNDERER
12.40 Keeshen 2.10 Section
1.10 Whatabob 2.40 HOH WARRIOR (np)
1.40 Roberta Lee 3.40 Princeful

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.40 HOH WARRIOR.

GUIDE TO CURRENT RACEHORSES
101 11343 GOOD TIME 13 (IRE) (B) (M) (P) (R) (B) (H) 12-0

Record: 6-4-0-0. Six-figure firm (F — 16). P — good. D — good. U — good. R — good. B — good. G — good. S — good. T — good. C — good. H — good. E — good. C — good. W — good. N — good. V — good. I — good. O — good. A — good. R — good. D — good. Weight: Rider plus any allowances. The Times: 11-1. National: 11-1. Weather: 11-1. Distance: 11-1. Others: 11-1.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

12.40 TURKEY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,004; 2m) (15 runners)

101 89 PAGENT 86 (GB) (Grey) C Redmore 7-1-10
102 8904-99 CAPTAIN TANIS 12 (GB) (S) (D) Smedley 6-1-11
103 8923-94 SHAMROCK 20 (T) (Hesitant) Miss L. Smith 6-1-11
104 894-95 SWEETIE 37 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
105 895-96 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
106 895-96 LANE'S BREEZE 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
107 8944-95 HOOT AND THE HOOT 17 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
108 8945-96 ANTENNE FLYER 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
109 8946-97 AMBROXIOUS 12 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
110 8947-98 BURGESS 12 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
111 8948-99 POLO FOLLY 17 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
112 8949-99 RASHAN 32 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
113 8950-91 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
114 8951-92 RUTH'S GAMBLE 7 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
115 8952-93 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
116 8953-94 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
117 8954-95 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
118 8955-96 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
119 8956-97 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
120 8957-98 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
121 8958-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
122 8959-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
123 8960-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
124 8961-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
125 8962-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
126 8963-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
127 8964-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
128 8965-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
129 8966-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
130 8967-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
131 8968-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
132 8969-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
133 8970-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
134 8971-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
135 8972-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
136 8973-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
137 8974-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
138 8975-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
139 8976-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
140 8977-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
141 8978-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
142 8979-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
143 8980-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
144 8981-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
145 8982-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
146 8983-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
147 8984-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
148 8985-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
149 8986-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
150 8987-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
151 8988-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
152 8989-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
153 8990-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
154 8991-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
155 8992-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
156 8993-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
157 8994-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
158 8995-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
159 8996-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
160 8997-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
161 8998-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
162 8999-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
163 9000-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
164 9001-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
165 9002-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
166 9003-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
167 9004-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
168 9005-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
169 9006-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
170 9007-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
171 9008-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
172 9009-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
173 9010-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
174 9011-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
175 9012-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
176 9013-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
177 9014-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
178 9015-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
179 9016-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
180 9017-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
181 9018-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
182 9019-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
183 9020-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
184 9021-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
185 9022-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
186 9023-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
187 9024-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
188 9025-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
189 9026-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
190 9027-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
191 9028-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
192 9029-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
193 9030-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
194 9031-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
195 9032-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
196 9033-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
197 9034-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
198 9035-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
199 9036-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
200 9037-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
201 9038-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
202 9039-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
203 9040-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
204 9041-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
205 9042-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
206 9043-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
207 9044-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
208 9045-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
209 9046-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
210 9047-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
211 9048-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
212 9049-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
213 9050-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
214 9051-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
215 9052-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
216 9053-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
217 9054-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
218 9055-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
219 9056-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
220 9057-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T. 6-1-11
221 9058-99 TURKEY SELLING 16 (GB) (S) (D) Mrs C. T. T.

EMBER 1996
Weather
puts a
damper on
Celtics' tilt for title

THE TIMES THURSDAY DECEMBER 19 1996

SPORT 37

EQUESTRIANISM

Late entry makes early impact with victory on Scandal

By JENNY MACARTHUR

PAUL DARRAGH, of Ireland, who gained a last-minute entry to the Olympia Show Jumping championships after winning the World Cup qualifier in Seville ten days ago, made a rousing start to the show when he and the eight-year-old, Scandal, relegated Michael Whitaker, of Britain, on Ashley, to second place in the opening Christmas Candies 1.82m class.

The Australian-bred Scandal is one of two horses that Darragh is training for Princess Haya, of Jordan, in the hope that one of them will be suitable for her to ride at the Olympic Games in Sydney. Darragh rates his Seville winner, Sarah, a more suitable ride for his pupil but, in January, he was reluctantly persuaded to buy the thoroughly-bred Scandal. "She told me that every Princess should have a scandal," Darragh said.

The organisers' decision to make the opening class at Olympia one of three qualifying events for the inaugural Vink Masters tonight, which offers a maximum possible prize of £21,000, produced a heightened sense of occasion.

Rodrigo Pessoa, of Brazil, a team bronze medal-winner in Atlanta, gained the first clear round on Loro Piana Bianca D'Amroy. Whitaker, riding in the maroon colours of his new sponsor, Virtual Village,

promptly knocked more than two seconds off his time with a faultless performance on Ashley.

Darragh, who is competing at the show for the first time since 1982, took up the challenge. Scandal is not an easy mare — she had to stop racing at five when she refused to load into the starting stalls — but she is not short on ability. Darragh turned her in so sharply to the eighth fence that she had to jump from two

The Christmas Candies Stakes: 1. Scandal (P Darragh, Irl) 0 faults in 59.4s; 2. Virtual Village Ashley (M Whitaker, GB) 0.6s; 3. San Patongino Wellaway (F D'Amroy, Irl) 0.6s; 4. The Peplom Family Pairs Relay (Irl) 0.6s; 5. The Tourmaline Rose (P Funnell) 6.2s; 6. Arnon (A Bradley) and Gordon's Daughter (M Jones) 6.3s; 7. Solitaire (R Whittaker) 6.3s; 8. Virtual Village Silver Cinders (R Whittaker) 7.0s.

strides, a feat that drew instant applause from the spectators. Romping home in a time of 52.94sec, Darragh confirmed that she is "nothing if not genuine".

Sloothaak, whose German-bred mare Wellaway — the horse on which he became world champion — would be well suited to The Masters competition, made a bold attempt to match Darragh's time but finished some three seconds adrift. His compari-

ot, Ludger Beerbaum, the former Olympic champion, had a steadier clear round on the German-bred Future, finishing in seventh place.

Nick Skelton, of Britain, who was given a rapturous reception by the crowd, dropped out of contention when his new Dutch-bred horse, Virtual Village Zaiba, incurred four faults at the second fence. Geoff Billington, Britain's highest-placed rider in Atlanta, found himself out of step with Solitaire, who had eight faults on the 11-fence course.

Earlier, Pippa Funnell, the event rider, survived her worst attack of nerves since her Badminton debut to win The Peplom Family Pairs Relay with her husband, William. Going first in the competition, for which riders had to qualify in events held throughout the year, Pippa jumped a fast clear round on Ann Burnet's The Tourmaline Rose before handing over the baton to William.

He rode a blistering round on his top showjumper, Comet, to finish in 66.26sec.

Alison Bradley, Nick Skelton's former stable jockey, riding with her fiancée, Michael Jones, took second place. Louise and Robert Whitaker, the children of the international showjumper, John Whitaker, did superbly to come third.



Pessoa, of Brazil, gaining the first clear round on Loro Piana Bianca D'Amroy

BOXING

Golota may agree to a bout of psychoanalysis

SNOOKER: ELECTION COULD TRANSFORM ROLE OF GOVERNING BODY

Doyle prepared to support Williams

By PHIL YATES

ANDREW GOLOTA is hoping to revive his career with a match against another former world heavyweight champion, but only after a bout of psychoanalysis. Golota has admitted he may take up the suggestion by Lou Dova, his co-trainer, of seeing a psychiatrist after being disqualified for the second time in five months against Riddick Bowe for a series of low blows.

The Chicago-based Pole is still unable to explain his

moment of madness when he was one round away from a near-certain victory on Saturday.

Golota, who was nursing a bad ear infection from the bout, said he would welcome the chance of meeting Tim Witherspoon, the former World Boxing Council and World Boxing Association champion. He said: "I want to fight the best and not waste time on those who are just climbing the rankings."

THE most bitter power struggle in the politically turbulent history of snooker comes to a head today with what is expected to be a stormy annual meeting of the governing body, the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA), at the Marriott Hotel, Bristol.

Two members of the WPBSA board of directors, John Spencer and Bill Oliver, were originally up for re-election, but last month Spencer

resigned from that seat and from the chairmanship of the association.

Before stepping down, Spencer had been heavily criticised by Ian Doyle, the outspoken manager of Stephen Hendry and head of the Team GdC Capital stable, which includes 11 other leading players.

Doyle, who is scathing about the board, believes that the game would greatly benefit from the introduction of a management structure that

would remove its day-to-day running from the hands of retired players, who make up the majority of WPBSA directors. This would reduce the board's number of meetings and transform its role into that of watchdog.

To this end, Doyle is supporting Rex Williams, a former WPBSA chairman, for election. Williams has declared an intention, if successful, to institute a personnel overhaul and make the appointment of a chief executive his top priority.

Those opposed to the present administration point to dissent on a number of fronts, particularly the failure to attract sponsorship for two recent events, the Grand Prix and United Kingdom championships, which both received extensive coverage by the BBC.

□ Paul Hunter, 18, of Leeds, has been awarded the sponsor's wild-card invitation to compete in the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley Conference Centre in February.

INDURAIN BIDES HIS TIME

CYCLING: Miguel Indurain, five times a winner of the Tour de France, may retire next season if the Once team cannot raise \$10 million (about £6 million) from sponsorship to pay his salary. It was reported yesterday that the Spaniard, 32, had refused to re-sign for his Banesto team and was negotiating with Once, whose leading riders are the Frenchman, Laurent Jalabert, and Alex Zulle, of Switzerland. The Madrid daily newspaper, *El País*, claimed that Indurain would compete in the Tour de France and Tour of Spain next year if he joined Once.

CAMPBELL A UNION MAN

RUGBY UNION: Stewart Campbell has become the latest leading player to sign a full-time contract with the Scottish Rugby Union. The move brings the number of "professional" players on the union's books to 45. The 24-year-old Melrose lock, who has won 13 Scotland caps, resumed playing recently after suffering a knee injury at the beginning of the season.

SPEEDWAY

Skegness turning to cinders

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SPEEDWAY in Great Britain will undergo a revamp next season with the formation of a new Elite League. Eleven clubs have applied for membership and there could be another 14 tracks operating in the Premier League as racing is planned for every day during the summer.

"It is tremendous news that we will have more than two dozen tracks operating in 1997," Terry Russell, the chairman of the British Speedway Promoters' Association, said yesterday.

Last season, speedway was successfully launched at Ryde and next season we have three completely new tracks applying for membership — Newport and Skegness in the Premier League, and St Austell in the Conference League — and at least five others returning to league racing. We haven't experienced that sort of expansion since the formation of two divisions in 1968 and there's no reason why there shouldn't be even more new tracks in the future.

Two of the Premier League tracks last season — London and Middlesbrough — have been forced out because their stadiums have been sold. Middlesbrough's owner, Malcolm Wright, has applied to put his licence on hold for 12 months in the hope that he can find a new stadium on Teesside and return in 1998.

Ten of the remaining 17 Premier League tracks have applied for Elite League status, along with King's Lynn, who had a year-long "sabbatical" when the future of their stadium was in doubt. Arena Essex and Berwick are stepping up to the Premier League from the Conference League.

ELITE LEAGUE: Bolo vs Bradford, Coventry, Crayford Heath, Eastbourne, Ipswich, King's Lynn, Peterborough, Poole, Swindon, Warrington, Wokingham, Wrexham, Exeter, Glasgow, Hull, Long Eaton, Newcastle, Newport, Oxford, Reading, Sheffield, Skegness, Stoke.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

In round seven at Las Palmas, each player arranges his hand from the previous deal into suits; then they are dealt out in groups, most commonly two rounds of five cards at a time followed by a round of three cards. As a result some wild distributions occur.

Dealer South East-West game Goulash

N		A 8 7 6 5	
W		—	
S		+ 10 9 8 7 6 5	
—	—	N	+ A 8 7 6 5
—	—	W	—
—	—	E	+ 10 9 8 7 6 5
—	—	S	—

Dealer South East-West game Goulash

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

33 32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

34 33 32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

35 34 33 32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

36 35 34 33 32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

37 36 35 34 33 32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

38 37 36 35 34 33 32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

39 38 37 36 35

Vanishing act has transformed sport's great variety show

Bygone days when success was all round

It is always sad to witness the extinction of a vanishing species. Within living memory the sporting landscape of Britain was well-stocked with a breed that is rarely, if ever, glimpsed today — the Great All-Rounder.

This magnificent beast traditionally roamed the playing-fields and tracks of the land, wielding a bat in the summer, kicking a ball in the winter, occasionally pulling on spikes to challenge a world record or strapping off to swim Niagara Falls.

You might today spot a young example of the breed — a lad such as Liam (son of Ian) Botham. He has the body, he has the pedigree. A fine all-rounder, he took five wickets for 67 in his county championship debut for Hampshire against Middlesbrough last August.

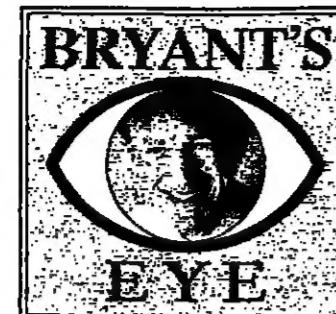
His announcement that he has chosen to forgo a career in cricket to concentrate on professional rugby union with West Hartlepool suggests that the tradition of the great all-rounder may have gone the way of the woolly mammoth. Money, television and ever-bigger competition have changed the habitat too much.

The young Botham is a living, and some would say sad, example of how sport has developed. The Victorian pioneers had a horror of over-specialisation. Their hero, their role model, was the well-rounded man, the man who could turn his hand to many sports and go on to distinguish himself in the world beyond, running an empire or winning a war.

Sporting history is littered with the achievements of their heirs. Denis Compton was one such multi-talented sportsman, spending his summers batting for Middlesex and England, his winters playing for Arsenal and England in wartime internationals. In his debut at rugby he scored most of the tries and kicked all of the goals. His older brother, Leslie, also played football for Arsenal and England and cricket for Middlesbrough.

The England cricket captain, Brian Close, played centre forward for Arsenal and Leeds United. Geoff Hurst, hero of the 1966 England World Cup team, once played cricket for Essex and his West Ham United team-mate, Jim Standen, turned out regularly for Worcestershire. Ian Botham, who represented England in 102 Test matches, took the field for Scunthorpe United. His old rival, Viv Richards, played football for Antigua in the qualifying rounds of the 1978 World Cup.

In his book *Corinthians and Cricketers*, Edward Grayson lists players who represented England at both football and cricket. They are a formidable bunch, with C. B. Fry and Harry Makepeace among them, but



they stop in the 1950s with Willie Watson (of Sunderland and Yorkshire) and Arthur Milton (Arsenal, Bristol City and Gloucestershire).

If you want to meet the real giant all-rounders, you have to go even farther back.

Greatest of them all is usually reckoned to be Fry, equally at home swinging a cricket bat, defending a football goal or sprinting down a long jump runway. He captained England at cricket and appeared in 26 Test matches. He played football for England and turned out as a full back for Southampton in the 1902 FA Cup Final.

In rugby, he played as a three-quarter for Blackheath and the Barbarians. He missed the first modern Olympic Games in Athens in 1896 because nobody told him it was on, but he had already set a world long jump record with a leap of 23ft 6in, almost three feet farther than the winning Olympic jump.

He also excelled at boating, swimming, shooting and fishing and was famously offered the crown of Albania, which he turned down.

A rival to Fry for the title of greatest all-rounder might be Willy Grenfell, the first Lord Desborough. As a student at Oxford he was president of both the athletic club and the boat club. He rowed twice in the university crew against Cambridge and the first time, in 1877, he pulled off the astonishing feat of running on the day before the Boat Race in the three-mile track race against Cambridge.

Later he stroked an eight across the Channel (each crew member had a jarjar to bail out water) and crossed it alone in a light racing skiff. He was an expert swimmer, who swam Niagara, not once, but twice — the second time in a snowstorm to prove to a sceptic that he had done it the first.

Desborough won national titles at fencing and punting, he fenced internationally for England at the age of 50, was feared at tennis and cricket, climbed the Matterhorn by three different routes and was chief organiser of the Olympic Games in London in 1908.

The tradition may have gone the way of the woolly mammoth'



Changing times persuaded Liam Botham to join West Hartlepool at the expense of a career in cricket

Some rare specimens of the great all-rounder were still said to be roaming freely in Britain as late as the 1950s.

Perhaps the last real sighting was that of Major Henry Lawrence Fleming (Indian Army, retired). In 1949 he won the Royal Automobile Club's open snooker championship exactly 40 years after he had taken

the English amateur billiards title. Fleming had been a champion schoolboy athlete, once winning seven titles in an afternoon. He represented Scotland at cricket, became Scottish tennis champion and was picked for his country at rugby.

Fleming then became India's billiards and tennis champion, one of its leading rifle shots and a famous polo

player. He excelled at cycle racing, running and steeplechasing. When he won his open snooker championship, he was playing off a golf handicap of ten and was 84 years old.

Has anyone spotted a genuine Great All-Rounder since Fleming? Or is the breed really quite extinct?

JOHN BRYANT



Three of the best: from the left, Compton, Desborough and, perhaps the greatest of them all, Fry

SQUASH

Maesteg saved by Cairns

By COLIN MCQUILLAN

LAUNCHED as a showdown between the full-time touring professionals of the Super Squash League and the mainly domestic luminaries of the SRA National Squash League, the SSL Cup has boiled down, after the quarter-finals this week, to a battle of the big guns.

Craig van der Watt, of South Africa, put the Welsh side level by resisting a spiri-

ed third-string challenge from 18-year-old John Russell 5-9, 9-5, 9-3, 9-4, leaving Mark Cairns, the England No 3, to secure the semi-final place for Maesteg by beating Clive Leach 9-7, 9-4, 9-5, 9-7 in the first-string rubber against Durban Maesteg.

Manchester Northern won their quarter-final against Queen's Sports Club, at Halifax, with Derek Ryan, the champion of Ireland, and Nick Taylor, the European champion of champions, allowing Paul Johnson the luxury of losing the dead rubber to Adam Toss.

ICL LionHerts, the defending SSL Cup holders, and ELLS Stockbrokers Lingfield gained straightforward victories, over Bishop's Stortford and Buxton respectively, to take their places in the finals weekend at Lingfield, Surrey, on May 3-4.

That weekend should see three of the England team that won the world team championship facing a far more demanding confrontation against the rest of the world. Chris Walker, Del Harris and Mark Chaloner, who were all in England's world championship squad, play for ICL, while Lingfield are led by the world No 2, Rodney Byles, of Australia, and the world No 3, Peter Nicol, of Scotland.

Before the SSL Cup is settled, however, the Super Squash League swings into full action on January 6, with Surbiton joining the race with a squad headed by Jansher Khan, the world champion. Ross Norman, the former world champion, Simon Parke, the former world junior champion, and Julien Bonnet, the champion of France.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Bg7+! Rg7 2 e7 leaves Black without a decent reply.

Cub Ideas for Christmas. Prices include delivery to EU customers (rest of the world add £1 per item). Send us for further details. Sterling/US dollar charges only (£1 = \$1.62) — special offer £1 off any three books purchased.

TIMES CROSSWORD: Books 1-3 £3.25; Books 4-5 £3.50; Books 6-7 £3.50; Books 8-9 £3.50; Books 10-11 £3.50. Answers £1.50 (UK only). NEW! For Christmas! The Third Book of The Times Jumbo Crossword (Cryptic) £12.50. The Times Night Sky £19.50. HEAVY DEMAND, ORDER NOW.

TIMES COMPUTER CROSSWORD: Books 1-2 £3.25; Books 3-4 £3.50; Books 5-6 £3.50; Books 7-8 £3.50; Books 9-10 £3.50. COMPUTER CROSSWORD: Books 1-2 £3.25; Books 3-4 £3.50; Books 5-6 £3.50; Books 7-8 £3.50. SOLOTEAM: Books 1-2 £3.25; Books 3-4 £3.50; Books 5-6 £3.50; Books 7-8 £3.50. The Times Two 5 (titles) — The Times Jumbo Edition £10.50.

Free postage and packing. £1.50 for delivery to Europe, £2.50 to the rest of the world.

1000+ CROSSWORD PUZZLES: Books 1-2 £3.25; Books 3-4 £3.50; Books 5-6 £3.50; Books 7-8 £3.50; Books 9-10 £3.50. Answers £1.50 (UK only). £2.50 to the rest of the world.

SOLOWORDS: Books 1-2 £2.50; Books 3-4 £2.50; Books 5-6 £2.50; Books 7-8 £2.50. Answers £1.50 (UK only). £2.50 to the rest of the world.

SOLOWORD: Books 1-2 £2.50; Books 3-4 £2.50; Books 5-6 £2.50; Books 7-8 £2.50. Answers £1.50 (UK only). £2.50 to the rest of the world.

SWIMMING

Rolph takes French leave

By CRAIG LORD

THE PRESSURE placed on Susan Rolph by swimming officials and television representatives to compete at the British winter championships, which start in Sheffield today, has failed to yield a result, with the double European short-course champion opting to swim for Clichy, in Paris instead.

Rolph's decision was taken, in part, for personal reasons, her grandmother having died. She heard the news after returning from Germany on Monday, where she won the 100 metres and 200 metres medley titles and equalled the European record (officially a "best time" until the standard is bettered) over 200 metres at the European short-course championships in Paris instead.

The championships will provide the first British champion for many a decade until this year the event has long been the ASA winter championships, the ASA being the governing body for England. The word "British" was deemed to be more marketable.

Paul Palmer makes his first appearance since winning the silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

The championships will provide the first British champion for many a decade until this year the event has long been the ASA winter championships, the ASA being the governing body for England. The word "British" was deemed to be more marketable.

Paul Palmer makes his first appearance since winning the silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

The championships will provide the first British champion for many a decade until this year the event has long been the ASA winter championships, the ASA being the governing body for England. The word "British" was deemed to be more marketable.

Paul Palmer makes his first appearance since winning the silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

The championships will provide the first British champion for many a decade until this year the event has long been the ASA winter championships, the ASA being the governing body for England. The word "British" was deemed to be more marketable.

Paul Palmer makes his first appearance since winning the silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

The championships will provide the first British champion for many a decade until this year the event has long been the ASA winter championships, the ASA being the governing body for England. The word "British" was deemed to be more marketable.

Paul Palmer makes his first appearance since winning the silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

The championships will provide the first British champion for many a decade until this year the event has long been the ASA winter championships, the ASA being the governing body for England. The word "British" was deemed to be more marketable.

Paul Palmer makes his first appearance since winning the silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

The championships will provide the first British champion for many a decade until this year the event has long been the ASA winter championships, the ASA being the governing body for England. The word "British" was deemed to be more marketable.

Paul Palmer makes his first appearance since winning the silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

The championships will provide the first British champion for many a decade until this year the event has long been the ASA winter championships, the ASA being the governing body for England. The word "British" was deemed to be more marketable.

Paul Palmer makes his first appearance since winning the silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

The championships will provide the first British champion for many a decade until this year the event has long been the ASA winter championships, the ASA being the governing body for England. The word "British" was deemed to be more marketable.

Paul Palmer makes his first appearance since winning the silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

The championships will provide the first British champion for many a decade until this year the event has long been the ASA winter championships, the ASA being the governing body for England. The word "British" was deemed to be more marketable.

Paul Palmer makes his first appearance since winning the silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

The championships will provide the first British champion for many a decade until this year the event has long been the ASA winter championships, the ASA being the governing body for England. The word "British" was deemed to be more marketable.

Paul Palmer makes his first appearance since winning the silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

The championships will provide the first British champion for many a decade until this year the event has long been the ASA winter championships, the ASA being the governing body for England. The word "British" was deemed to be more marketable.

Paul Palmer makes his first appearance since winning the silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

The championships will provide the first British champion for many a decade until this year the event has long been the ASA winter championships, the ASA being the governing body for England. The word "British" was deemed to be more marketable.

Paul Palmer makes his first appearance since winning the silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

The championships will provide the first British champion for many a decade until this year the event has long been the ASA winter championships, the ASA being the governing body for England. The word "British" was deemed to be more marketable.

Paul Palmer makes his first appearance since winning the silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

The championships will provide the first British champion for many a decade until this year the event has long been the ASA winter championships, the ASA being the governing body for England. The word "British" was deemed to be more marketable.

Paul Palmer makes his first appearance since winning the silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

The championships will provide the first British champion for many a decade until this year the event has long been the ASA winter championships, the ASA being the governing body for England. The word "British" was deemed to be more marketable.

Paul Palmer makes his first appearance since winning the silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

The championships will provide the first British champion for many a decade until this year the event has long been the ASA winter championships, the ASA being the governing body for England. The word "British" was deemed to be more marketable.

Paul Palmer makes his first appearance since winning the silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

The championships will provide the first British champion for many a decade until this year the event has long been the ASA winter championships, the ASA being the governing body for England. The word "British" was deemed to be more marketable.

Paul Palmer makes his first appearance since winning the silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

The championships will provide the first British champion for many a decade until this year the event has long been the ASA winter championships, the ASA being the governing body for England. The word "British" was deemed to be more marketable.

Paul Palmer makes his first appearance since winning the silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

The championships will provide the first British champion for many a decade until this year the event has long been the ASA winter championships, the ASA being the governing body for England. The word "British" was deemed to be more marketable.

Paul Palmer makes his first appearance since winning the silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

The championships will provide the first British champion for many a decade until this year the event has long been the ASA winter championships, the ASA being the governing body for England. The word "British" was deemed to be more marketable.

Paul Palmer makes his first appearance since winning the silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

The championships will provide the first British champion for many a decade until this year the event has long been the ASA winter championships, the ASA being the governing body for England. The word "British" was deemed to be more marketable.

Paul Palmer makes his first appearance since winning the silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

The championships will provide the first British champion for many a decade until this year the event has long been the ASA winter championships, the ASA being the governing body for England. The word "British" was deemed to be more marketable.

Paul Palmer makes his first appearance since winning the silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

The championships will provide the first British champion for many a decade until this year the event has long been the ASA winter championships, the ASA being the governing body for England. The word "British" was deemed to be more marketable.

ights on
le trade

Nightmare? More like a dream come true

Nightmare is an overused word these days, but you can't blame people for using it. What you can do, however, is blame people for thinking it's an original way of describing an unpleasant situation. "So what was it like being stuck in that lift with an escaped spider acrobat group, with flames flicking the walls of your premature burial chamber?" asks the reporter. "Nightmare," comes the banal (though accurate) reply. You see, it doesn't matter that this person has never dreamt of spiders, and is not claustrophobic; it doesn't matter that his own personal nightmare is being late for a piano exam. "Nightmare" we exclaim, and everyone looks sympathetic and says "I know!" People have started saying it was a nightmare in WH Smith's when there was a queue of five people at the till.

I always knew Mary Shelley had a nightmare and then wrote *Frankenstein*; what had somehow eluded me was the news that Bram Stoker followed suit exactly with Dracula. It turns out, then, that Christopher Freytag's "Nightmare: the Birth of Horror" (BBC1) is quite literally titled. In fact, this week's first two instalments both featured hammy reconstructions of 19th-century people writhing asleep in white nights and then sitting up yell. "Aaagh!" Stoker's own seminal dream (if I may be so bold) evidently concerned a trio of pneumatic virgin brides pouncing on his neck, only to be stopped by the command: "This man belongs to me," uttered by a black-suited figure in doorway. Since Sigmund Freud had really got started in 1900, poor Stoker's only option was to head for Whitby and get cracking on a book.

If I had to choose a favourite form of telly entertainment, a series like this would rank high. Freytag is unfailingly interesting

on telly, and horror literature is a pet subject of his, on which he published books when a mere academic. As Freytag ties his yellow Rupert-bean scarf and ascends a steep Wallachian rock, it doesn't matter too much that phoney flashes of lightning keep appearing in the sky, or that the sound-effects man with the thunder-sheets is ridden near to exhaustion. It doesn't even matter that the film clips come only from inexpensive sources. As in his memorable series about the impact of *Turandot* on western ies, *Nightmare* tells a story about a story, and listening to it on a dreary December night is as comforting as hot choccy and blankets.

An item on food allergy featured in the last instalment of *Trust Me, I'm a Doctor* (BBC2) — an enjoyable series that with a bit more publicity could well become an institution

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

— and it reminded me of a woman who refused to eat fish. "Can you eat it?" I asked caringly, patting her hand. "No," she said. But instead of the expected food-allergy story, she went on: "Well, I once had a nightmare about wading across a swimming pool, and the thing was, hundreds of fish were nudging me, and nibbling my thighs, and it was horrible, horri-

ble, horrible, and I can't stand fish any more, make it go away, I can't stand it."

Understandably, the *Trust Me* item made no allowances for nightmare-induced aversion, but was otherwise up to standard. Evidently the widespread allergy to peanuts in today's children stems from the quantities of peanut oil used in jars of baby food. The advice "This food contains nuts" is therefore not a matter of showing off, as I rather stupidly assumed it was. Other useful insights from last night's programme were that folic acid will soon be added to staple foods; that the circumcision of baby boys has no medical foundation; and that you are more likely to die while watching the National Lottery than win the jackpot.

This last, highly interesting statistic strongly implies that a lot of people have died while watching the lottery, but such sad news

probably won't stop anybody buying a ticket. Dying during the lottery is a distinction of which many would perversely be proud. Just think, it could be you!

Ken Loach's *Modern Times: The Flickering Flame* (BBC2) concerned the agony of 500 Liverpool dock workers locked out a year ago, and not supported by their union. As you would expect from Loach, the film had an emphatic, lecturing quality (screen captions stating facts: narration from that serious actor Brian Cox, yet made admirably light work of union meetings. As with Jimmy McGovern's *Hillsborough*, *The Flickering Flame* was a case of public agendasetting, of airing a complicated and painful story that has suffered from "media blackout". Curious, then, that the BBC only received *The Flickering Flame* on Tuesday, making it almost impossible for

the press to see it before transmission.

Finally, Channel 4's wonderful animation series *Pond Life* (by Candy Guard) ended yesterday, with the usual 3.45 instalment just a taster for a double episode later on. Having raved about *Pond Life* on its first transmission, I still rave about it to anyone who will listen, and in the last two weeks have even plugged it on local radio stations in the course of trying to explain why single women are *funny*, for God's sake, and not asocial freaks who get down in the dumps at Christmas.

Anyway, in last night's final episode — *The Driving Test* — Dolly had the most convincing bad dream of the evening: her examiner turning into a dog just before reversing-round-a-corner. *Pond Life* deserves to be a classic. I just hope Channel 4 repeats it at a better hour. I mean, 5.45? What a *nightmare*.

WORLD SERVICE

BBC1
6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (65185)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (37967)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (1720680)
9.20 20.30 STYLE CHALLENGE (4610109)
9.45 KILROY (8462258)
10.20 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK with Kevin Woodcock (11172)
11.00 NEWS (T) and weather (3086242)
11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW Consumer advice (5067155)
11.45 45 MILLION PEOPLE (9822728)
12.00 NEWS (T), regional news and weather (8175659)
12.05 SNOWY RIVER — THE MCGREGOR SAGA (3176703)
12.50 MICHAEL BARRYMORE'S CHOICE CUTS (30476500)
1.00 NEWS (T) and weather (30074)
1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (69697266)
1.40 NEIGHBOURS (T) (23417242)
2.00 CALL MY BLUFF (4277)
2.30 THE TERRACE Last in the series (797)
3.00 INCOGNITO (6864)
3.30 PINOCCHIO (T) (5744890) 3.50 Casper Classics (T) (1997242) 4.00 The Itsy Bitsy Spider (T) (1585600) 4.20 Julia and Hamish Hyde (T) (6154635) 4.35 Smart, Last in series (T) (7474227) 5.00 Newsround (T) (5022838) 5.10 The Buz (T) (5324345)
5.35 NEIGHBOURS (T) (591682)
6.00 NEWS and weather (T) (426)
6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (6965)
7.00 WATCHDOG Consumer magazine presented by Anne Robinson (T) (6033)
7.30 EASTENDERS Lorraine leaves a secret and Grant has some apologising to do (T) (290)
8.00 ANIMAL HOSPITAL DOWN UNDER In the final programme from Australia, Roll Harris accompanies a flying vet to what must be the world's smallest and most crowded veterinary surgery (T) (1513)
8.30 2POINT4 CHILDREN First of two-part story which concludes tomorrow. Ben's mid-life crisis is "worsening" and Bill inherits a mysterious gift (T) (3548)
9.00 NEWS (T), regional news and weather (6967)
9.30 THE THIN BLUE LINE Fowler faces a dilemma when Patricia announces she is to spend her leave on an organised protest against a new bypass (T) (45819)
10.00 2.30pm CROCODILE SHOES: Boom Jac receives some vital new information which leads him to the men by whom he was framed. Last in series (T) (19977)
10.55 QUESTION TIME With Malcolm Rikind, MP, Clare Short, MP, Matthew Paris, a Times columnist, and Valerie Amos from the Runnymede Trust (T) (356600)
11.55 CLIVE ANDERSON ALL TALK (T) (801384)
12.30am FILM: *The Blood of Dracula* (1970) starring Christopher Lee, Geoffrey Keen, Gwen Watford and Ralph Bates. A disciple of Dracula recruits three Victorian thrill-seekers to obtain the notorious Count's cloak, ring and dried blood. Directed by Peter Sasdy (438277)
2.00 WEATHER (5749597)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode
The numbers next to each TV programme listing and video code, which you can use to programme your video recorder. Tap in the Video PlusCode (+) handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode (+), Passcode (+) and Video PlusCode (+) handset. Video PlusCode (+) and Video PlusCode (+) are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: *Tilings at the Alhambra* (702074) 6.25 Blue Haven (7521109) 6.50 *The True Geometry of Nature* (875597) 7.15 *Sea Hear* Breakfast News (2854258) 7.30 *The Legend of Prince Valiant* (5602242) 7.50, Blue Peter (5786258) 8.15 *Noddy* (5421345) 8.25 *Pingu* (5349797) 8.35 *The Record* (612384) 9.00 *Coppermine* (37074) 10.00 *Playdays* (22010) 10.25 *The Fugitive* (8944884) 11.15 *The Phil Silvers Show* (577172) 11.40 *Flesh Gordon's Trip to Mars* (5602242) 12.00 *Operation Survival* (22428) 12.30pm *Working Lunch* (50797) 1.00 *Pingu* (5201316) 1.30 *Barney* (99415797)
1.15 *FILM: *Jesus** (1947) 1.45 *Broadway* (1947) 2.00 *Manhattan* (1945) 2.30 *Goldwynn* (1945) 2.45 *Andy Goldsworthy* (1993) 3.00 *Brainwaves* (1974) 3.30 *Midnight* (1946) 4.00 *Widow* (1947) 4.30 *Widow* (1947) 5.00 *Newsround (T) (5022838)* 5.10 *The Buz (T) (5324345)*
5.35 *NEIGHBOURS (T) (591682)*
6.00 NEWS and weather (T) (426)
6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (6965)
7.00 WATCHDOG Consumer magazine presented by Anne Robinson (T) (6033)
7.30 2.30pm CROCODILE SHOES: Boom Jac receives some vital new information which leads him to the men by whom he was framed. Last in series (T) (19977)
8.00 **THE WORKS: The Stone Diaries** Following the creation of "environmental" sculptor Andy Goldsworthy's latest artwork (T) (1915)
8.30 **WALES: Starstruck in Aberdare**
8.30 **TOP GEAR** Quentin Wilson, Steve Berry and Michele Newman accompany drives on the London to Brighton run for vintage cars (T) (4890)
9.00 **3D ROCK FROM THE SUN** Dick has to arrange a funeral and Tommy is torn between Cheryl and August (T) (4529)
9.30 **Young new East Enders** (9.30pm)

9.30 **BANGLADASH 25** Film maker Ruhul Amin documents the lives of Bangladeshi who have made London's East End their home (T) (510393)
10.15 **ADS INFINITUM** (851797)
10.30 **NEWSNIGHT** (T) (151971)
11.15 **LOOKING FOR TAT** (85800)
11.25 **THE OLD LADY AND THE PIGEONS** (502259)
11.45 **CHAIRMAN'S ORDER** Animation — followed by *Singing Forza* (207074)
12.00 **PICTURE THIS** (10730)
12.30am **THE LEARNING ZONE**: Open University: *Out of the Netting Pot* (54846) 1.30 *Reflections on a Global Screen* (84488) 2.00 *Believing: The Long Search: West Meets East/Loose Ends/Faith to Faith* (32169) 4.00 *Business and Work: Winning* (94223)
5.00 *Business and Work: The Small Business Programme* (220) Steps to Better Management (2227)

9.30 **BANGLADASH 25** Film maker Ruhul Amin documents the lives of Bangladeshi who have made London's East End their home (T) (510393)
10.15 **ADS INFINITUM** (851797)
10.30 **NEWSNIGHT** (T) (151971)
11.15 **LOOKING FOR TAT** (85800)
11.25 **THE OLD LADY AND THE PIGEONS** (502259)
11.45 **CHAIRMAN'S ORDER** Animation — followed by *Singing Forza* (207074)
12.00 **PICTURE THIS** (10730)
12.30am **THE LEARNING ZONE**: Open University: *Out of the Netting Pot* (54846) 1.30 *Reflections on a Global Screen* (84488) 2.00 *Believing: The Long Search: West Meets East/Loose Ends/Faith to Faith* (32169) 4.00 *Business and Work: Winning* (94223)
5.00 *Business and Work: The Small Business Programme* (220) Steps to Better Management (2227)

9.30 **SKY MOVIES GOLD**
9.00pm *Murder Most Foul* (9941577) 9.25 *Attack* (807984) 9.50 *Bonfire* (884364) 10.00 *Flying Leathernecks* (1855264) 10.30 *God Troop* (5726268) 3.30 *Timon and Pumbaa* (5320503) 1.00 *Ring Me a Song* (5145408) 1.30 *Death Wish II* (1982) 2.30 *Death Wish III* (1983) 2.50 *Death Wish IV* (1984) 3.15 *Death Wish V* (1985) 3.30 *Death Wish VI* (1986) 3.45 *Death Wish VII* (1987) 3.50 *Death Wish VIII* (1988) 3.55 *Death Wish IX* (1989) 3.55 *Death Wish X* (1990) 3.55 *Death Wish XI* (1991) 3.55 *Death Wish XII* (1992) 3.55 *Death Wish XIII* (1993) 3.55 *Death Wish XIV* (1994) 3.55 *Death Wish XV* (1995) 3.55 *Death Wish XVI* (1996) 3.55 *Death Wish XVII* (1997) 3.55 *Death Wish XVIII* (1998) 3.55 *Death Wish XIX* (1999) 3.55 *Death Wish XX* (2000) 3.55 *Death Wish XXI* (2001) 3.55 *Death Wish XXII* (2002) 3.55 *Death Wish XXIII* (2003) 3.55 *Death Wish XXIV* (2004) 3.55 *Death Wish XXV* (2005) 3.55 *Death Wish XXVI* (2006) 3.55 *Death Wish XXVII* (2007) 3.55 *Death Wish XXVIII* (2008) 3.55 *Death Wish XXIX* (2009) 3.55 *Death Wish XXX* (2010) 3.55 *Death Wish XXXI* (2011) 3.55 *Death Wish XXXII* (2012) 3.55 *Death Wish XXXIII* (2013) 3.55 *Death Wish XXXIV* (2014) 3.55 *Death Wish XXXV* (2015) 3.55 *Death Wish XXXVI* (2016) 3.55 *Death Wish XXXVII* (2017) 3.55 *Death Wish XXXVIII* (2018) 3.55 *Death Wish XXXIX* (2019) 3.55 *Death Wish XL* (2020) 3.55 *Death Wish XLI* (2021) 3.55 *Death Wish XLII* (2022) 3.55 *Death Wish XLIII* (2023) 3.55 *Death Wish XLIV* (2024) 3.55 *Death Wish XLV* (2025) 3.55 *Death Wish XLVI* (2026) 3.55 *Death Wish XLVII* (2027) 3.55 *Death Wish XLVIII* (2028) 3.55 *Death Wish XLIX* (2029) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2030) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2031) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2032) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2033) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2034) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2035) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2036) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2037) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2038) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2039) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2040) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2041) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2042) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2043) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2044) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2045) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2046) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2047) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2048) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2049) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2050) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2051) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2052) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2053) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2054) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2055) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2056) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2057) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2058) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2059) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2060) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2061) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2062) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2063) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2064) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2065) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2066) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2067) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2068) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2069) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2070) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2071) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2072) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2073) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2074) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2075) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2076) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2077) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2078) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2079) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2080) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2081) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2082) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2083) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2084) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2085) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2086) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2087) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2088) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2089) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2090) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2091) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2092) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2093) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2094) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2095) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2096) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2097) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2098) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2099) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2100) 3.55 *Death Wish L* (2101) 3.55 *Death Wish L</i*

